

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC.

NONDEPARTMENTAL WITNESSES

[CLERK'S NOTE.—The subcommittee was unable to hold hearings on nondepartmental witnesses. The statements and letters of those submitting written testimony are as follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ACLARA TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

As a leading technology provider to electric, gas and water utilities, Aclara Technologies, LLC respectfully urges you to prioritize smart water network infrastructure spending, as well as funding to improve the performance, efficiency, and safety of our Nation's energy and water distribution infrastructure in the Fiscal Year 2020 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. We thank you for this opportunity to express our support for this funding and appreciate your consideration.

Aclara Technologies, LLC ("Aclara") provides smart infrastructure technologies to electric, gas and water utilities, with offerings in advanced metering, methane sensing, device networking and communications, data management, analytics, and customer service. Over 1,000 utilities in 36 countries rely on proven Aclara solutions

We currently have 950 Aclara clients located in all 50 States and employ over 1,600 staff in the United States and over 150 internationally. Smart technologies make energy and water use more efficient and allow utilities to provide better services to their clients. Companies like Aclara prove that smart technologies mean jobs, not just at Aclara, but also at utilities in the form of installation and monitoring jobs.

Aclara offers its strong support for the advancement of technologies that can improve our Nation's energy and water distribution networks by providing enhanced monitoring, detection, and control capabilities. These technologies are an important and cost-effective way to increase reliability, efficiency, and safety of our ageing infrastructure. Supporting the advancement of these technologies will be crucial as the country's energy and water distribution networks continue to age and as the risks for utilities and network operators rise.

Water Infrastructure

Although many of our Nation's water and wastewater systems have been around for more than a century, water infrastructure spending has received a significantly smaller and decreasing share of total infrastructure investment. According to the Value of Water Campaign, over the past 40 years the percentage of overall Federal infrastructure spending has been steady for roads and bridges, but has decreased for water infrastructure.¹ The Congressional Budget Office found that Federal spending on water infrastructure decreased from \$76 per person in 1977 to just \$11 per person in 2014, and EPA estimates that the country's water and wastewater infrastructure will need more than \$650 billion over the next two decades to maintain current levels of service. We are pleased that the administration's previous two budget requests (fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019) retained funding for impor-

¹ <http://www.waterweek.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Value-of-Water-Economic-Benefits-of-Investing-in-Water-Infrastructure.pdf>.

tant programs like WIFIA and the SRFs, and *we urge you to prioritize water infrastructure spending in fiscal year 2020 and beyond.*

Moving and treating water requires an extensive infrastructure of pipes and plants and offers opportunities for energy and water efficiency at every step. Water leaks cost many cities as much as 10 to 30 percent loss of their water, leaks that also waste a lot of energy. The EPA estimates that drinking water and wastewater systems account for 30 to 40 percent of total energy consumed by municipalities. As much as 8.4 billion kilowatts is wasted each year moving water nationwide. Due to ageing infrastructure, significant energy savings are possible through the use of leak detection and pressure monitoring technologies.

Water system efficiency and smart water networks should be a clearly stated goal of any investments made in our Nation's water infrastructure. Water distribution systems should be modernized in a way that increases water and energy efficiency and enables customers and utilities to interact with it as never before. This will require smart water networks that facilitate the collection of data via sensors along distribution networks, advanced analytics, and the incorporation of communications technologies to optimize performance, preempt problems, and allow for rapid response.

The Environmental Protection Agency, through its Office of Water, should help to advance the utilization of infrastructure solutions such as distribution network leak detection, pressure monitoring, and sanitary and combined sewer monitoring technologies during upgrades to water and wastewater systems to optimize water delivery performance, reduce energy usage, limit water waste in distribution systems, and enhance modeling of sewer collection networks. This will help to improve operations, maintenance, and capital expenditure in planning and budgeting, and increase spatial and temporal monitoring data available on U.S. water quality and quantity.

One key aspect of smart water networks is advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). AMI can offer communities multiple advantages to improve their management of water, reducing water and energy waste, and decrease costs for distributors, operators, and consumers. AMI provides benefits beyond those available from older automatic "drive-by" meter reading (AMR) technologies that read meters monthly only to support customer billing. Detailed consumption data provided by AMI can help reduce water use in many ways, including:

- Detects system leaks—Non-revenue water costs utilities \$4.9 billion per year. AMI can help drastically reduce water leaks and associated costs by creating a continuous flow of information from advanced meters, combined with advanced data analytics, that enables water suppliers to rapidly and precisely identify water losses and conservation opportunities.
- Helps consumers save water (and money)—AMI allows for hourly data to be made available to end consumers. Providing this kind of detailed water use information to consumers through an associated consumer engagement application or customer portal is proven to increase conservation, thereby saving consumers money on their monthly water bills.
- Leverages existing advanced metering investments to reduce cost—for example, Aclara's technologies can also leverage existing gas metering infrastructure, eliminating some infrastructure and deployment costs. California's major gas utilities have already deployed Aclara, providing the umbrella infrastructure for a "hybrid" communication system that water utilities can use. Harnessing existing networks can significantly reduce deployment time and allow rapid realization of conservation benefits. In these shared networks, Aclara technology is used to split meter reads for different utility companies, keeping the costs of data collection low. Aclara, and its competitors in the AMI space, offer the technology needed to separate the collected data for each utility and provide the security to prevent commingling of each utility's data.
- Enables smart pressure management to save energy—AMI enables improved water pressure management of utility systems, which consists of automatically modulating flow and pressure according to water demand, keeping pressure constant at the service points. Besides reducing leakage and bursts, smart pressure management lowers operating costs by reducing site visits and energy costs from maintaining unnecessary high pressure. Smart pressure management requires a wireless communications system including sensors that measure pressure at critical points, software that analyses the pressure status at such points and calculates responses to achieve a desired pressure, and a controller device to prompt smart pumps or valves whose use can save energy.
- Provides resilience during and following natural disasters—for example, Aclara's system in New York City, which serves more than 9 million people, weathered Hurricane Sandy with minimal disruption. Aclara's water meter

transmission units have a 20 year battery life and its data collectors offer a rugged, weather-proofed design that stores 28 days of data with a 14 day back up battery life. Deployments offer redundancy so that if an individual data collector is disabled, another collector can continue to obtain meter data for that area, offering resiliency critical after earthquakes, floods or other disasters.

In addition to ensuring funds are dedicated to the advancement of water efficiency technologies, we also urge you to support appropriations for technologies to make our wastewater systems “smarter,” particularly when it comes to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). SSOs can be extremely costly, and many wastewater system owners don’t know about spills until well after the fact, which can further increase the cost of remediation. SSO monitoring technologies can help to mitigate these costs and can help to prevent SSOs from happening in the first place. For example, Aclara’s solutions provide detailed information about how sewer collection systems are operating and can alert operators when part of the system is operating poorly, thereby allowing proactive correction and pipe cleaning to prevent a spill. In addition, the data can be used to generate reports needed for regulatory concerns (thus decreasing overhead costs) and also allows for enhanced modeling of sewer collection networks to improve maintenance and capital expenditure planning and budgeting.

Aclara believes that technologies that improve the performance, efficiency, and safety of the country’s energy and water distribution networks are essential to our economic growth, health and safety, and overall resiliency. We urge you to ensure that fiscal year 2020 appropriations, as well as any potential infrastructure package put together during this congress, includes funds for the advancement of technologies that will make our water and natural gas distribution networks smarter, safer, and more efficient. We urge a prioritization of water infrastructure spending. Again, thank you for providing this opportunity to submit testimony. We would also appreciate the opportunity to brief you or your staff on the status of these technologies and how additional research can help their advancement. We look forward to working with you.

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[This statement was submitted by Kumi Premathilake, Senior Vice President, Advanced Metering Infrastructure.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY

FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, ENERGY STAR®, AND OTHER VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of fiscal year 2020 appropriations for ENERGY STAR® and other voluntary programs administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Alliance to Save Energy is a non-profit, bipartisan coalition of business, government, environmental, and consumer-interest leaders that advocates for enhanced U.S. energy productivity to achieve economic growth; a cleaner environment; and greater energy security, affordability, and reliability. The Alliance enjoys the participation of nearly 130 businesses and organizations that collectively represent at least \$615 billion in market capital. The Alliance was founded in 1977 by Senators Charles Percy (R-Illinois) and Hubert Humphrey (D-Minnesota), and today has 14 Members of Congress serving on an Honorary Board of Advisors.

Energy efficiency is our country’s greatest energy resource—creating jobs, stimulating economic activity, enhancing energy security, lowering harmful emissions, and improving U.S. competitiveness in global markets. Energy efficiency gains made since 1973 have cut energy waste dramatically to fuel the U.S. economy more productively. Thanks in part to Federal energy efficiency programs, including ENERGY STAR and other voluntary programs managed by the EPA, the U.S. today generates twice as much gross domestic product (GDP) from each unit of energy we consume when compared to 1980.¹

¹ In 1980, the U.S. consumed 78 quads (quadrillion British thermal units (BTUs)) while GDP was \$6.4 trillion, which produces an energy productivity ratio of 82.6. This compares to energy

Continued

As energy efficiency has increased, so have stable, good-paying jobs. More than 2.3 million American workers design, manufacture, install, and repair devices, appliances, equipment and buildings that deliver cost-effective savings, representing one-third of the entire energy-related workforce. Most of these are construction and manufacturing jobs. In fact, members of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies represent over 735,000 Americans employed in whole or in part in the energy efficiency sector (see Table 1).²

TABLE 1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY SECTOR JOBS IN STATES REPRESENTED BY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member	State	Jobs	Member	State	Jobs
Lisa Murkowski <i>Chairwoman</i>	Alaska	4,617	Tom Udall <i>Ranking Member</i>	N.M.	5,636
Lamar Alexander	Tenn.	53,006	Dianne Feinstein	Calif.	318,542
Roy Blunt	Mo.	41,845	Patrick Leahy	Vt.	11,035
Mitch McConnell	Ky.	25,530	Jack Reed	R.I.	12,773
Shelley Moore Capito	W.Va.	6,844	Jon Tester	Mont.	8,673
Cindy Hyde-Smith	Miss.	15,403	Jeff Merkley	Ore.	42,547
Steve Daines	Mont.	8,673	Chris Van Hollen	Md.	70,530
Marco Rubio	Fla.	118,412			
Total Energy Efficiency Sector Jobs: 735,393					

The contributions of Federal energy efficiency programs to the long history of economic, environmental and security benefits to our country are difficult to overstate. And, notwithstanding the tremendous gains already made, the opportunities to continue to drive cost-effective energy efficiency improvements are even greater. Therefore, the Alliance respectfully urges your support for fiscal year 2020 appropriations at or above current levels for ENERGY STAR and the following voluntary programs:

ENERGY STAR

- The Alliance recommends at least \$50 million for ENERGY STAR in fiscal year 2020.
- The Alliance opposes the implementation of a fee-based funding model for ENERGY STAR, which is unnecessary, and which would erode the program's integrity.
- ENERGY STAR enjoys brand awareness of more than 90 percent, which makes it the most widely recognized symbol for energy efficiency, and is extremely cost-effective. For every extra dollar Americans invested in energy efficiency under ENERGY STAR, they reduced their energy bills by an average of \$4.50. Since 1992, managed jointly by EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy, ENERGY STAR has helped families and businesses save \$450 billion on utility bills, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 3.1 billion metric tons.
- ENERGY STAR serves broad constituencies across every State in the country, working with over 16,000 partners. ENERGY STAR includes almost 1,800 manufacturing partners of over 70 different product categories, who sold more than 300 million qualified products in the U.S. in 2016. About 50 percent of the commercial building floor space in the U.S. has been benchmarked for tracking and analyzing energy consumption using ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager. ENERGY STAR also counts almost 3,000 home builder partners who constructed over 1.9 million certified new homes since 1995. In 2016, families living in EN-

productivity of 176.4 in 2017 (i.e., 96.8 quads and GDP of \$17 trillion). Energy consumption data is from the Energy Information Administration. GDP (real dollars, 2009) is provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

²National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and Energy Futures Initiative (EFI), "Energy Employment By State—2019," March 2019, <https://www.usenergyjobs.org>. Last accessed May 14, 2019.

ENERGY STAR certified homes saved over \$360 million on utility bills, and 91,000 energy efficiency improvement projects on existing homes were completed by Home Performance with ENERGY STAR partners in 2017. More than 700 utilities, State and local governments, and nonprofits across the country use ENERGY STAR in their own energy efficiency programs and rely on it to reliably and affordably meet their energy needs.

OTHER VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- The Alliance recommends at least level funding for Environmental Programs and Management—Clean Air and—Water Quality Protection in Fiscal Year 2020 accompanied by clear direction to EPA to continue administering its portfolio of voluntary and partnership programs that encourage energy efficiency practices in industry and deliver savings across the energy sector.
- The Combined Heat and Power Partnership aims to reduce pollution from electricity and thermal power generation by working with industry and other stakeholders to develop new projects.
- The SmartWay Transport Partnership with the freight transportation industry supports efforts to improve the fuel efficiency of vehicles. This program has worked with more than 3,700 shippers and logistics companies to save almost \$33.4 billion in fuel since 2004.
- Natural GasSTAR, which includes the Methane Challenge Program, is a partnership with industry that supports the identification and implementation of technologies that reduce methane pollution and provides public recognition of high achievements.
- AgStar promotes the use of biogas recovery systems to reduce methane emissions from livestock waste.
- WaterSense offers homeowners, consumers, and businesses information about water-efficient products market by a recognizable and trusted label.
- Other programs, such as the State and Local Energy and Environment Program and the State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network, are important collaborations between the public and private sectors that provide specific and tailored technical assistance and platforms for sharing information and best-practices.

NATIONAL VEHICLE AND FUEL EMISSIONS LABORATORY

- The Alliance recommends at least \$117 million in Science and Technology—Clean Air, including at least level funding in vehicle and fuel standards and in greenhouse gas reporting,
- This laboratory is a global leader that oversees vehicle fuel economy and emissions testing, which are closely related. The laboratory manages programs that also address fuel economy labels, the Green Vehicle Guide, fuel standards, and nonroad engines.

The Alliance also urges the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to oppose the inclusion of any bill amendments or report language that could undermine or prevent the EPA from continuing to successfully manage ENERGY STAR and other voluntary programs. Furthermore, in light of the Government Accountability Office impoundment finding concerning the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy program, the Alliance continues to recommend clear and direct instructions to the EPA in report language to obligate and expend appropriated funds consistent with Congressional intent and in a timely manner. With respect to ENERGY STAR, the Alliance encourages the subcommittee to reject the administration's proposal to implement a fee-based mechanism to fund the program. Similar proposals have been suggested by previous administrations and repeatedly denied by Congress.

Unpredictable energy costs and growing consumer and business demand make today's investments in energy efficiency ever more vital to America's economic health and energy security. It is important to emphasize that ENERGY STAR and these other EPA programs are voluntary initiatives that work with private-sector partners and support their efforts to increase business opportunities while reducing energy waste. The wide-ranging benefits of ENERGY STAR and these other voluntary programs, realized across the entire U.S. economy and accrued to even those who do not choose to participate, are worthy of your support in fiscal year 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony. My name is Laura Lott and I am the President and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). We urge your support for at least \$167.5 million each in fiscal year 2020 funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), as well as sufficient funding for the Smithsonian Institution. We also request your support for the Historic Preservation Fund, including at least \$60 million for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), \$20 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) and \$22.5 million for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights Movement. We request funding of \$16 million for the Save America's Treasures program. In addition, we would like to work with you to explore ways to minimize the damage to our Nation's museums from future government shutdowns.

Before detailing these funding priorities for the museum field, I want to express my appreciation for the increases enacted in fiscal year 2019. The additional funds for the NEH, NEA, and historic preservation activities will enhance museums' work to enrich their communities and preserve our many heritages. The subcommittee's choice to make these investments in fiscal year 2019 speaks volumes about its commitment to our Nation's cultural institutions and heritage. AAM remains deeply troubled by continuous proposals from the current administration to slash many of these priorities, and we look forward to working with you—our bipartisan allies—to reject them.

Representing more than 35,000 museum professionals and volunteers, institutions—including aquariums, art museums, botanic gardens, children's museums, cultural museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, planetariums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, and zoos—and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad range of the museum community.

Museums are essential in their communities for many reasons:

—*Museums are economic engines and job creators.*—According to *Museums as Economic Engines: A National Report*, U.S. museums support more than 726,000 jobs and contribute \$50 billion to the U.S. economy per year. The economic activity of museums generates more than \$12 billion in tax revenue, one-third of it going to State and local governments. For example, the total financial impact that museums have on the economy in the State of Alaska is \$280 million, including supporting 3,240 jobs. For New Mexico it is a \$298 million impact supporting 4,934 jobs. This impact is not limited to cities: more than 25 percent of museums are in rural areas. The import of these data is not the numbers alone—but the point that museums give back tremendously to their communities in numerous ways—including economically. The Federal funding for NEA, NEH, and the other programs does not stay in Washington, DC, but it goes back to communities across the Nation. And it is leveraged many times over by private philanthropy, and State and local investments.

—*Museums are key education providers.*—Museums spend more than \$2 billion yearly on education activities; the typical museum devotes 75 percent of its education budget to K–12 students, and museums receive approximately 55 million visits each year from students in school groups. Children who visited a museum during kindergarten had higher achievement scores in reading, math and science in third grade than children who did not, including children most at risk for delays in achievement. Museums help teach the State and local curriculum in subjects ranging from art and science to history, civics, and government. Museums have long served as a vital resource to homeschool learners. It is not surprising that in a 2017 public opinion survey, 97 percent of respondents agreed that museums were educational assets in their communities. The results were statistically identical regardless of political persuasion or community size.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent Federal agency created by Congress in 1965. Grants are awarded to nonprofit educational institutions—including museums, colleges, universities, archives, and libraries—for educational programming and the care of collections. NEH supports museums as institutions of lifelong learning and exploration, and as keepers of our cultural, historical, and scientific heritages that can foster critical dialogues on challenging issues of our time.

In fiscal year 2018, as a whole, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded 826 grants totaling more than \$67 million to institutions across the U.S., including museums. Many of NEH's divisions and offices support museums:

- The Office of Challenge Grants offers matching grants to support much needed capacity building and infrastructure projects at museums.
- The Division of Public Programs offers grants that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life in museums by supporting exhibitions, community conversations, and place-based history. Additionally, Positions in the Public Humanities supplements provide professional development opportunities for new museums professionals.
- The Division of Preservation and Access provides funding to museums for efforts to preserve and provide access to our Nation’s rich cultural heritage.
- The Division of Education Programs supports programs that bring educators to museums for intensive summer training programs on humanities topics.
- The Office of Digital Humanities offers grants to support innovations in technology at museums, universities, and other institutions.
- The Division of Research supports scholarly research that many museums use to inform exhibitions and public programming.

In calendar year 2018, 218 NEH-funded permanent and traveling exhibitions were open around the Nation, providing life-long learning opportunities to a wide public audience. Humanities councils in every State and U.S. territory sponsor family literacy programs, speakers’ bureaus, cultural heritage tourism, exhibitions, and live performances. In 2018, 55 State councils supported 2,389 exhibitions, 10,097 discussion events, 166 preservation projects, and 769 local history programs. In total, all State council programs reached an audience of more than 137 million people. State councils also awarded more than 3,000 grants to partners in their communities.

Here are just two examples of how NEH funding was used to support museums’ work in your communities:

- The Pratt Museum in Homer, Alaska, received a \$300,000 award for an ongoing project through fiscal year 2019 to implement a permanent exhibition in its new facility to explore the interconnectedness of people and place in the Kachemak Bay region of Alaska. This region is home to culturally diverse coastal communities which make their living predominantly from the sea.
- The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico, received a \$460,000 award in fiscal year 2018 for *Here, Now, and Always: Renovation and Renewal*—an implementation of a reinterpretation of a permanent exhibition on Native American art of New Mexico and the Southwest.

The National Endowment for the Arts makes art accessible to all and provides leadership in arts education. Established in 1965, NEA supports great art in every congressional district. Its grants to museums help them exhibit, preserve, and interpret visual material through exhibitions, residencies, publications, commissions, public art works, conservation, documentation, services to the field, and public programs.

Since 2010, the NEA has collaborated with Blue Star Families and the U.S. Department of Defense on Blue Star Museums, a program which provides free museum admission to active duty military and their families all summer long. In 2018, more than 2,000 museums in all 50 States participated, reaching on average more than 900,000 military members and their families.

In 2018, the NEA provided more than 100 awards directly to museums, totaling more than \$3.73 million. The Arts Endowment’s report, *U.S. Trends in Arts Attendance and Literary Reading: 2002–2017*, notes that in 2017, 23.7 percent of U.S. adults (57.5 million people) visited an art museum or gallery. That share of adults represents an increase of 12.9 percent from 2012 to 2017. Attendance rates were helped by increases among: African Americans, 18–24 year-olds, 35–44 year-olds, and adults who received only “some college” education. Communities’ demands on museums continue to climb, increasing pressure to serve more people with limited financial and human resources. Receiving a grant from the NEA confers prestige on supported projects, strengthening museums’ ability to attract matching funds from other public and private funders. On average, each dollar awarded by the Arts Endowment leverages up to \$9 dollars from other public and private sources. The Federal role of the NEA is uniquely valuable. No other funder-public or private-funds the arts in every State and the U.S. territories. Forty percent of NEA’s grant funds are distributed to State arts agencies for re-granting.

Here are two examples of how NEA funding was used to support museums’ work in your communities:

- In fiscal year 2019, the Anchorage Museum in Anchorage, Alaska, received a \$30,000 award to support SEED Lab, an artist and designer residency program that will respond to community needs through solutions, equity, energy, and de-

sign (SEED). SEED Lab will be a space for exhibitions created by the resident artists and designers, and will include free-access community programs, studio spaces, and a lab to explore art and design solutions to unique community challenges, including urban migration, threats to traditional ways of life affected by the State's eroding coastline, and the need for a new energy economy.

—In fiscal year 2018, the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe, New Mexico, received a \$30,000 award to support an exhibition by sculptor and installation artist Rose B. Simpson and an accompanying catalogue. Simpson is a member of Santa Clara Pueblo's Naranjo family of artists and scholars and is the daughter of acclaimed sculptor Roxanne Swentzell.

In addition to these direct grants, NEA's Arts and Artifacts Indemnity program also allows museums to apply for Federal indemnity on major exhibitions, saving them as much as \$30 million in insurance costs every year and making many more exhibitions available to the public—all at virtually no cost to the American taxpayer.

The Smithsonian Institution comprises some of the most visited museums in the world. The National Museum of African American History and Culture has captivated audiences from around the globe, underscoring the power of our national museums to educate and inspire. We support funding increases that would allow these world-class museums to undertake critical collections care, make needed technology upgrades, conduct cutting edge research of every type, and increase access for all.

The Historic Preservation Fund is the funding source of preservation awards to States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofits. State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices carry out the historic preservation work of the Federal Government on State and Tribal lands. These duties include making nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, reviewing the impact of Federal projects, providing assistance to developers seeking a rehabilitation tax credit, working with local preservation commissions, and conducting preservation education and planning. This Federal-State-local foundation of America's historic preservation program was established by the National Historic Preservation Act. Historic preservation programs are not only essential to protecting our many heritages; they also serve as economic development engines and job creators. We urge you to provide at least \$60 million for SHPOs and at least \$20 million for THPOs.

We applaud recent funding for the Save America's Treasures program, and urge you to provide \$16 million in fiscal year 2020 funding. From 1999 to 2010, total Federal funding of \$315 million for 1,287 Save America's Treasures projects leveraged an additional \$400 million in non-Federal funds, and created more than 16,000 jobs nationwide. These projects protected some of America's most iconic and endangered artifacts, including the American flag that inspired the Star Spangled Banner. We also applaud the investment in competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights Movement. Grants for this initiative are currently helping museums and historic sites around the country conserve endangered structures, document stories, and share resources with the public. We support fiscal year 2020 funding of \$22.5 million for these Civil Rights Movement grants.

I hope that my testimony helps make it clear why these priorities are of critical importance to the Nation and how they provide a worthwhile return on investment to the American taxpayer.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

INTRODUCTION

Madame Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to you today. My name is James Lighthizer, and I am the president of the American Battlefield Trust. I respectfully request that the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies fund the Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program, administered by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, at its authorized amount of \$10 million.

The American Battlefield Trust is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving America's remaining Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefields. Thanks to the generosity of our 300,000 members and supporters, the American Battlefield Trust has protected more than 50,000 acres of critically important battlefield land in 24 States.

The Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program is an authorized competitive matching grants program that requires a 1 to 1 Federal/non-Federal match, although on most occasions the Federal dollars are leveraged much more than 1 to

1. The program promotes cooperative partnerships between State and local governments and the private sector to protect high priority battlegrounds outside existing National Park Service boundaries.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS AND MILITARY TRAINING GROUNDS

America's battlefields are irreplaceable parts of our shared national heritage. When preserved, these battlefields serve as outdoor classrooms to educate current and future generations about the defining moments in our country's history. They are living memorials, not just to the soldiers who fought and died there, but to all who have proudly worn our Nation's uniform.

Preserved battlefields are also economic drivers for communities, generating tourism dollars that are extremely important to State and local economies. Battlefield visitors, who typically travel in groups and as part of families, tend to stay longer and spend more than other types of tourists.

Additionally, battlefields serve as training grounds for our men and women in uniform in the form of customized battlefield tours known as "staff rides." Preserved battlefields are frequently used by the modern military to place officers and enlisted ranks alike in the shoes of combat commanders, asking them to make difficult choices, in the face of daunting obstacles, over the same terrain. The American Battlefield Trust is proud to work with the Marine Corps University Foundation and others to host staff rides on battlefields we own and have protected.

ORIGINS OF THE PROGRAM

In 1990, Congress created the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC), a blue-ribbon panel composed of lawmakers, historians and preservationists, to examine the status of America's Civil War battlefields. Three years later, the Commission released a report identifying the most important Civil War battlegrounds, prioritizing them according to preservation status and historic significance. In addition, the Commission also recommended that Congress establish a Federal matching grant program to encourage private sector investment in battlefield preservation. The Commission's proposal for Federal matching grants was the genesis of today's Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program.

In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) reauthorized the battlefield acquisition grants program and expanded its eligibility to include Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields, in addition to Civil War battlefields. Similar to Civil War battlefields, funding for Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield preservation is targeted toward sites reviewed and prioritized in a 2007 study by the National Park Service.

Since the program was first funded in fiscal year 1999, grants have been used to protect more than 32,000 acres of hallowed ground in 20 States. Among the battlefields that have been preserved using this program are: Antietam, Maryland; Bentonville, North Carolina; Brandywine, Pennsylvania; Champion Hill, Mississippi; Chancellorsville, Virginia; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Hanging Rock, South Carolina; Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; Kettle Creek, Georgia; Mill Springs, Kentucky; Prairie Grove, Arkansas; Princeton, New Jersey; Sackets Harbor, New York; Wilson's Creek, Missouri; and Wood Lake, Minnesota. It is important to note that grants are awarded for acquisition of lands from willing sellers only; there is not—and never has been—any eminent domain authority.

URGENT NEED FOR FUNDING

The American Battlefield Trust wishes to thank the subcommittee for its previous support of this valuable program. We recognize that these are difficult economic times and appreciate the constraints on this subcommittee.

However, we must point out that the clock is ticking on the remaining battlefields of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. The American Battlefield Trust estimates that, in the next decade, most unprotected battlefield land will be either developed or preserved. Further, with the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution only a few years away, there is no better time to preserve these historic shrines and prepare for the influx of visitors expected at that time. The program has enjoyed full funding for the past four fiscal years, and the Trust and its partners strive diligently to put these funds to use in a timely manner. There is no shortage of land that can be saved.

CONCLUSION

The Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War were defining moments in our country's history. America's battlefields are important to under-

standing who we are as a nation, and where we come from. They are open spaces and outdoor classrooms that commemorate the sacrifices of those who fought and died on these fields, and those who serve our Nation honorably in the armed forces. The Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant Program has been an irreplaceable tool for preserving these hallowed grounds.

Madame Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall, I sincerely hope you and your subcommittee will consider our request to provide funding of the American Battlefield Protection Program's Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program at its authorized level of \$10 million. We look forward to working closely with you as we continue our important work to preserve America's sacred battlefield lands. Thank you.

[This statement was submitted by O. James Lighthizer, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF AMERICAN FORESTS

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on American Forests' fiscal year 2020 appropriations recommendations for U.S. Forest Service programs.

American Forests was established at a pivotal time in the Nation's history, barely 10 years after the Civil War and during a period of tremendous development and industrial expansion. Forests were being cut down at an alarming rate to make way for new farms, towns and railways, and timber barons were exploiting what then seemed like an inexhaustible resource. Since that time, we have supported progress, but not at all costs. Instead, over the last 140+ years we have advocated for using science to manage and conserve our forestlands so they will be with us and work for us for generations. We have helped develop the U.S. Forest Service and the national forest system. We have funded more than 1,000 forest restoration projects in every State. We have planted nearly 60 million trees, which has included expanding the tree canopy in dozens of major cities and urban areas.

For years, we have testified to the economic value of our forests from cities to wilderness and have underscored the importance of addressing rising threats to forest health. We sincerely thank the committee for fiscal year 2019 funding levels, which rejected the drastic cuts proposed by the administration and provide the Forest Service with important tools and resources to manage all our Nation's forests.

This year, the Nation witnessed loss and destruction from wildfire at levels we have never seen before. In fact, over the last decade, each year has been worse than the last and this trajectory shows no signs of changing. At American Forests, we believe our forests are struggling to adapt to a 'new normal' of extremes: extreme drought, low humidity, high winds, shortened 'cold spells'. These extremes produce dramatic tree mortality and high intensity wildfire in the West, and changing tree species composition and declining forest health in the East.

To adapt forests to this 'new normal' will often require more active forest management, including harvesting dead and dying trees, reforestation, reintroducing controlled fire and other measures. More active forest management will require increased Federal and private investment and level of effort sufficient to halt this crisis. Consider California's forests, where over 147 million trees have died since 2010, with roughly 85 percent of those located in the Sierra Nevada. If we do nothing, many areas will experience fires so intense that they cannot be reforested and will transition to a shrub ecosystem. The best hope for sustaining forests like those in the Sierra will be to thin areas with dead and declining trees, while restoring a more resilient forest and using controlled burns more frequently. But it's not only western forests. A recent University of Florida study found that southeastern forests are already seeing a changing mixture of tree species in response to prolonged drought. Dangerous forest pests are reaching farther north into New England as its climate warms. New stresses are coming to all of America's forests.

The "Fire Funding Fix" enacted as part of the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill was a critical step forward. It will allow the U.S. Forest Service to stop diverting funds away from forest management. This will provide additional resources to support forest restoration on America's 193 million acres of national forests, but we must do much more. The Forest Service needs to rebuild its staff and forestry resources to adequately manage the crisis that is now impacting our forests and to help our forests achieve long-term health and resilience. The question is whether we can shift our thinking and resources quickly enough.

To address this crisis, American Forests respectfully urges the Committee to consider significantly increasing investments in the following key programs:

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

Vegetation Management & Watershed Management

Fiscal year 2018 enacted: \$180 million; fiscal year 2019: \$180 million; *American Forests fiscal year 2020 request: \$371.4 million*

Reforestation of our national forests, especially after destructive wildfires, should be a national priority. Nearly 9 million acres of national forests have burned since 2010—a significant increase resulting from the harsh 'new normal' conditions. Funding levels for this program need to be recalibrated to match this new scale of reforestation needs. The forest service estimates \$371.4 million to reforest 1 million acres. Therefore, American Forests recommends resetting program funding to \$371.4M which would allow the Forest Service to reforest 1 million acres of national forest.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)

Fiscal year 2018 enacted: \$40 million; fiscal year 2019: \$40 million; *American Forests fiscal year 2020 request: \$80 million.*

A well-documented success at improving forest health and safety, CFLRP promotes job stability, a reliable wood supply, and forest health while reducing emergency wildfire costs and risks. Increased funding levels would allow for additional projects to be selected across the country while capitalizing on the growing energy and successes of collaborative management and shared stewardship.

Forest and Rangeland Research

Fiscal year 2018 enacted: \$297 million; fiscal year 2019: \$ 300 million; *American Forests fiscal year 2020 request: \$315 million with \$83 million allocated to the Forest Inventory Analysis.*

The USFS's Forest and Rangeland Research program provides essential support for urban and wildland forestry research activities. This program focuses on understanding conditions and trends in our Nation's urban and community forests and in providing tools and best management practices—which is critical for addressing the "new normal" these forests face. Agency researchers help policymakers and practitioners understand the environmental, economic, and social services that trees and forests provide. We urge the subcommittee to continue including language in Interior Appropriations reports encouraging the Forest Service to maintain a strong and vibrant urban forest research program.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF)

Fiscal year 2018 enacted: \$28.5 million; fiscal year 2019: \$29.5 million; *American Forests fiscal year 2020 request: \$50 million*

By 2050, 90 percent of Americans will live in cities and towns where currently there are 136 million acres of trees and forests. U&CF is the core Federal forestry program that helps these forests and trees adapt to the "new normal". Through this program, the Forest Service provides critical technical and financial support to cities and towns across the Nation to enhance tree and forest cover, prepare for storms and other disturbance events, contain threats from native and invasive pests, and maximize the economic, social, and ecological benefits of their tree resources. States and partner organizations leverage Federal support through the program by at least 2:1 (or in many cases significantly more). Considered a model of Federal-State collaboration, U&CF consistently increases communities served, brings together diverse partners and resources, and has lasting impacts on communities of all sizes but the program needs to be recalibrated to reflect the scale of its mission.

Cooperative Forestry/Forest Legacy Program

Fiscal year 2018 enacted: \$67.025 million; fiscal year 2019: \$63.990 million; *American Forests fiscal year 2020 request: \$100 million*

Since authorization in 1990, the Forest Legacy Program has protected 2.8 million acres of private forests through voluntary conservation easements held by States. Forests conserved through this program must be managed to provide economic and social benefits to the public. The Forest Service recently studied four FLP regions and found the properties support between 280 and 2,500 jobs, contribute an average of \$140 per acre to gross regional product from timber harvesting, tree planting, maple syrup, hunting, fishing, birding, and snowmobiling on the lands. In addition, the study found 34–60 percent of total project cost was covered by non-Federal partners which is at least 10 percent greater than required by the program.

Community Forests and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)

Fiscal year 2018 enacted: \$4 million; fiscal year 2019: \$4 million; *American Forests* fiscal year 2020 request: \$10 million

CFP has made substantial progress in preserving forests by increasing opportunities for Americans to connect with forests in their own communities and fostering new public-private partnerships. It provides financial assistance grants to local governments, Tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations to acquire and establish working community forests that provide public benefits. Projects are selected through a competitive process that evaluates community benefits, contribution to landscape conservation initiatives, and likelihood of land conversion.

[This statement was submitted by Alexandra Murdoch, Vice President of Policy.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

On behalf of the thousands of diverse trail users our 220 collective organizations represent, we urge appropriators to adequately invest in our Nation's trails.¹ Trails provide access to our public lands for hiking, biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicles, and other motorized and non-motorized recreation. They are also the gateway to nearly every facet of outdoor recreation, including fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, and more. A failure to maintain and manage our Nation's trails stymies economic growth and access to healthy outdoor recreation.

Recent data from the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) calculated that outdoor recreation generated \$734 billion in economic activity in 2016, surpassing other sectors such as agriculture, petroleum and coal. Outdoor recreation makes up 2.2 percent percent of U.S. GDP, supports 4.5 million jobs and is growing faster than the economy as a whole.²

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, trail centered activities directly generate over \$594 billion³ and nearly 3.5 million jobs.⁴ On federally managed land, outdoor recreation contributes more than \$64.6 billion to the national economy and supports more than 623,000 jobs annually.⁵

The management of our Nation's trails is largely supported by trail organizations and citizen volunteers who leverage government resources to maintain and expand our trails. On the National Trails System alone, since 1995, hundreds of thousands of citizen volunteers have contributed more than 19 million hours to build and maintain National Scenic and Historic Trails, and nonprofit trail organizations have contributed more than \$200 million toward trail stewardship projects, a total value of \$577.4 million.⁶ This historical and ongoing public "sweat equity" investment has led to an increased recognition of the importance of adequate Federal funding for our public lands and trails to maintain quality visitor experiences. It is our collective belief that Congress must restore the proper appropriated funding levels that have been cut over the decades that our Federal land management agencies so desperately need. We maintain that current levels are inadequate but recognize the political realities of this challenge. Consequently, we strive to temper the recommendations to ensure at the very least current funding is maintained and not further reduced. However, we believe that restored and adequate funding is not only desperately needed but fully warranted.

We encourage the committee to adopt the following funding requests and report language, so the Federal Government can continue to benefit from private contributions and volunteer labor as well as provide inexpensive, healthy outdoor recreation options for your constituents:

¹ Full list of signatories available here: <https://americanhiking.org/?p=40292&preview=true>.

² Bureau of Economic Analysis, Outdoor Recreation, <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/outdoor-recreation> (last visited March 25, 2019).

³ OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY 18 (2017), available at https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA_RecEconomy_FINAL_Single.pdf. Trail centered activities generated \$594,311,835,880 from including retail spending, salaries, and Federal and State taxes.

⁴ *Id.* Trail centered activities create 3,476,845 jobs.

⁵ OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY 15 (2017), available at https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA_RecEconomy_FINAL_Single.pdf; "Forest Service Makes it Easier for Visitors to Enjoy National Forests and Grasslands." U.S. Forest Service, <https://www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/forest-service-makes-it-easier-visitors-enjoy-national-forests-and-grasslands>.

⁶ Partnership for the National Trails System, Contributions Sustaining the National Scenic and Historic Trails (2018), <http://pnts.org/new/partnership-for-the-national-trails-system-gold-sheet-of-volunteer-contributions-in-2018/>.

FOREST SERVICE (USFS)

National Forest trails benefit everyone and receive increasing public use each year. Collectively, the National Forests provide 157,000 miles of trails for activities ranging from hiking, biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle usage, groomed winter trails for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling, and access points for “river trails.” Yet this trail system is increasingly stressed and maintenance cannot keep pace with the growing demand due to inadequate funding. The lack of maintenance threatens public access to National Forests and could endanger the public safety if funding does not keep pace with public visitation.

Action:

- Maintain Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Trails as individual funding line item.
 - Justification:* A dedicated line item in the Forest Service budget helps to ensure that Congress’ desire to help clear the maintenance backlog is met, and funds are not used for other purposes.
- Fund Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Trails budget at \$100 million to address trail maintenance backlog and implementation of the National Forest System Trail Stewardship Act.
 - Justification:* In 2016, Congress passed what was termed “the most bipartisan bill in Congress”—the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act—to address its trail maintenance backlog, including doubling the output by volunteers and partners. But the USFS has yet to fully implement the Act due, in part, to a lack of resources and declining levels of staffing which hampers its ability to negotiate and oversee volunteer and cost-share agreements. The agency recently launched a 10-Year Sustainable Trails Stewardship Challenge and modest funding is needed to comprehensively address the well-documented trail maintenance backlog (GAO–13–618).
- Allocate Capital Improvement & Maintenance (CMTL) Trails funds for the National Trails Systems
 - Report Language:* “Congress expects the Forest Service to allocate \$8.826 million from this account to support development and maintenance of the 5 national scenic and one national historic trail it administers and \$1.3 million to manage parts of 16 national scenic and historic trails administered by the Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management that cross National Forests. The Forest Service will report to the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on how the fiscal year 2020 funds have been allocated and what has been accomplished with them and will include specific allocations for these trails in its fiscal year 2021 budget request.”
 - Justification:* In fiscal year 2019, as has been past practice for two decades, the USFS did not allocate specific Capital Improvement & Maintenance (CMTL) Trail funds for each of the six national scenic and historic trails that it administers, as well as portions of the 17 other trails that it manages within the national forests for fiscal year 2019.
- Maintain Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness at fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$261 million
 - Report Language:* “Within the fund provided, \$500,000 is made available to support infrastructure and trails development, and to build the capacity of local user groups and partnership organizations for all National Recreation Areas administered by the Forest Service established after 1997.”
 - Justification:* The National Forests and Grasslands provide a great diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities, connecting the American public with nature in an unmatched variety of settings and activities.
- Restore Legacy Roads & Trails as a separate line item and fund program at \$50 million
 - Report Language:* “For fiscal year 2020, Legacy Roads & Trails should be reinstated as a separate line item in the USFS budget with \$50,000,00 distinctly designated for urgently needed road and trail repair, maintenance and storm-proofing, fish passage barrier removal, and road decommissioning, especially in areas where Forest Service roads may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies which support threatened, endangered or sensitive species or community water sources.”
 - Justification:* Legacy Roads & Trails funding is significantly impactful, improving more than 11,000 miles of trails and 5,000 miles of roads. Dedicated

funding is necessary for continuing the success of this program. Legacy Roads and Trails contributes funding to support projects that include the maintenance and treatments of roads that also go a long way towards improving our watershed health.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

National Parks and the world-class experiences their 18,844 miles of trails provide are one of the most unifying forces in America. Well-maintained trails improve the quality of visitor experiences and enhance visitor safety. Yet the agency's deferred maintenance has grown significantly under several administrations and the associated reductions in adequate appropriations.

Action:

- Park Service Operations for the National Trails System must be maintained at a minimum of \$16.5 million
 - Justification:* The National Park Service has administrative responsibility for 23 National Scenic and Historic Trails established by Congress. Adequate funding is essential for keeping these popular trails accessible to the public.
- Maintain funding for the Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program at \$10.033 million
 - Justification:* The RTCA program brings the expertise of over a century of land management to the greater recreation community. When a community asks for assistance with a project, National Park Service staff provide free critical tools for success, on-location facilitation, and planning expertise, which draw from project experiences across the country and adapt best practices to a community's specific needs.
- Restore the Challenge Cost Share program, funding at \$1.5 million
 - Justification:* Challenge Cost share leverages private donations with public funding to maximize trail maintenance resources. This Program is intended to support specific National Park Service mission-related projects that align with goals of local project partners. These partnerships promote improved access and opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, and education in our National Parks, National Trails and/or Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- Restore funding for Volunteers in Parks programs funding at \$8 million
 - Justification:* Volunteers in Parks leverages private donation with public funding to maximize trail maintenance resources.
- Fund Visitor Services subactivity, Youth Partnership Programs, at \$10.95 million
 - Justification:* The Youth Partnership Program in part funds the Public Land Corps program, which provides education and work opportunities for men and women aged 16–30. The NPS utilizes non-profit youth serving organizations to perform critical natural and cultural resource conservation projects at NPS sites. Without funding, projects completed by youth crews through these programs would not be accomplished. These projects range from masonry apprenticeships on historic structures to Tribal land improvements; to engaging other youth through coordination of culturally-based workshops and outdoor recreation clubs.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

The BLM manages 13,468 miles of trails over 245 million surface acres in the United States—more than any other Federal land management agency. Most of the country's BLM-managed public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska, and contains a diversity of landscapes that often provide the public less structured but nonetheless diverse and superlative recreational opportunities. BLM recreation resources and visitor services support strong local economies. More than 120 urban centers and thousands of rural towns are located within 25 miles of BLM lands.

Action:

- Fund National Conservation Lands at \$84 million
 - Justification:* National Conservation Lands funds enhance recreational access, conserve the Nation's heritage and manage these nationally recognized resources.

- Fund National Conservation Lands—National Scenic Historic Trails, subactivity Recreation Resources Management at \$9.9 million
 - Justification:* Recreation Resources Management funding preserves and provides public access to and allows for the enjoyment of the 16 National Scenic and Historic trails across BLM managed land.
- Increase Challenge Cost Share program funding at \$3 million
 - Justification:* Challenge Cost Share funds leverage private donation for public benefit, to maximize funding for trail maintenance and construction. Recreation projects build trails, obliterate road and trails, and enhance visitor recreation experiences on public lands. Projects improve and stabilize Riparian areas and washed out bridges or walkways. Overall, projects also include support for environmental education, University research, and interactive youth initiatives based on the programs within the BLM.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)

Located in every U.S. State and territory, and within an hour's drive of nearly every major U.S. city, National Wildlife Refuges provide incredible opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, boating and nature photography across 2,100 miles of trails. More than 37,000 jobs are reliant on refuges.

Action:

- Maintain Refuge Visitor Services at \$73.319 million
 - Justification:* Refuge Visitor Services provides funding for trail maintenance across FWS managed land.

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)—ACROSS ALL AGENCIES

Congress recently showed overwhelming bipartisan support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) when it permanently reauthorized the program in S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. Building upon this support, the committee must ensure that full funding of the program is provided at the \$900 million level.

Action:

- Fund LWCF at the \$900 million
 - Justification:* The LWCF has funded nearly 1,000 trail projects across the country and countless other recreation and conservation projects in thousands of communities in every State. It's time for Congress to fulfill its promise to provide full funding to the LWCF.
- Include within this appropriation \$33.4M for National Scenic and Historic Trails projects
 - Justification:* Many of the projects offer a unique opportunity to acquire lands that will help protect trails or close existing gaps between sections of these Congressionally-designated trails. Once land is acquired, volunteers and private funding stand ready to build/maintain the trails. This funding will protect 41 tracts along six national scenic and six national historic trails.

21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS (21CSC)—DOI, USDA (USFS), AND
COMMERCE (NOAA)

With the establishment of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) as part of the Natural Resources Management Act of 2019, Congress recognized the need to address modern conservation, recreation, forestry, and infrastructure projects through cost-effective partnerships with Corps. We encourage you to continue this focus and make the additional investments necessary to carry its intent forward and put more young adults and recent veterans to work on the thousands of unmet needs on our public lands.

Action:

- Conservation Corps Report Language
 - Report Language:* “The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are encouraged to utilize, where practicable, Conservation Corps programs like the Public Lands Corps, 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, other related partnerships with Federal, State, local, Tribal or non-profit groups that serve young adults and veterans.”

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN ALASKA NATIVE TOURISM
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Thank you Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, Inc. (AIANTA) on the importance of the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act of 2016 (NATIVE Act).

AIANTA is the only organization specifically dedicated to advancing Indian Country tourism across the United States. AIANTA helps Tribes develop, sustain and grow tourism destinations through technical assistance, training and educational resources. Our mission is to define, introduce, grow and sustain American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Tourism that honors traditions and values.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 REQUEST

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) requests a program amount of \$5,400,000 for fiscal year 2020 to be included in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Community Development Central Oversight account to implement the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act of 2016 (NATIVE Act), including via cooperative agreements with Tribes and Tribal organizations.

In fiscal year 2018 and again in fiscal year 2019, \$3,400,000 was appropriated through Committee report language to be used by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Community Development Central Oversight account for NATIVE Act implementation.

NATIVE ACT PROGRESS

The NATIVE Act is designed to “enhance and integrate Native American Tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal Tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.”

Since its passage and enactment, AIANTA was designated the lead Tribal organizational role in implementation of the NATIVE Act through a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Commerce signed in September, 2018. The lead role is natural to AIANTA because of its mission, which perfectly aligns with language of the NATIVE Act, as does the Tribal nonprofit organization’s goals and ongoing projects and initiatives.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 FUNDING

Tribes in tourism, with AIANTA as their facilitator and convener, are requesting \$5,400,000 in fiscal year 2020 to ensure implementation of the NATIVE Act accelerate. The funds will create opportunities for Native American, Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native Tribes, Tribal tourism programs and Tribal members as outlined in the NATIVE Act implementation plan developed by AIANTA and a 5-year cooperative agreement between BIA and AIANTA. Implementation efforts using the funds will include technical assistance, training, curriculum development, professional tourism certification, a state-of-the-art Tribal tourism destination website, Tribal product assessment and development, training and marketing in domestic and international outreach, improved research, data collection and analysis, inclusion in Federal agency management planning across the Federal Government and Federal tourism and recreation websites.

In support of the NATIVE Act, AIANTA intends to expand and formalize partnerships to include working more closely with the U.S. Department of Commerce and its divisions: National Travel and Tourism Office, International Trade Administration and Economic Development Administration and enter into a cooperative agreement to integrate Tribes into the research and development programs offered by Commerce.

AIANTA will continue to work with the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute for Museum and Library Science, Administration for Native Americans, and in Smithsonian projects to ensure tourism Tribes are well represented in all Federal grant programs.

AIANTA will continue to work with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service to ensure tourism Tribes are included in their management plans; collaborate with the U.S. Department of Labor on tourism workforce development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Tribal tourism rural development opportunities.

In addition, \$2,000,000 of the \$5,400,000 is requested for support of on-the-ground Tribal tourism planning, studies and projects for Tribes and Tribal organizations funded through the BIA Division of Energy and Economic Development in partnership with AIANTA and educational institutions that specialize and support economic development.

INDIAN COUNTRY TOURISM CONTRIBUTES BILLIONS TO THE U.S. ECONOMY

Currently, tourism is a leading opportunity for jobs and economic development in Indian Country. In some rural and remote communities, it is one of the only viable opportunities for household income. Indian Country tourism has a bright future that lies in the more than one billion leisure travelers in the world, and the interest of international visitors in the American Indian culture and what their communities offer—memorable and unique experiences, warm hospitality and unusual landscapes.

According to U.S. Department of Commerce statistics, approximately 1.9 million overseas visitors traveled to an Indian Country nation or destination in 2016 (most recent report). In total, those visitors represented approximately \$8.5 billion in visitor spending across the country for that same year. Furthermore, these visitors are pre-disposed to spend more time in the U.S. and spend more money. Since AIANTA began working on international marketing and outreach, visitation to Native American communities from overseas has grown from 700,000 in 2007 to 1.9 million in 2016, an increase of 180 percent.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, when overseas travelers visit Tribal lands, they stay longer in the U.S.—an average of 12 additional days. Which means they spend about twice as much money as the average overseas traveler while they are here. They visit more States and cities, use more rental cars, and take more domestic flights. They visit more National Parks, small towns, art galleries and museums, fine restaurants, and cultural heritage sites compared to all overseas visitors. (Source: U.S. Department of Commerce National Travel and Tourism Office Inbound International Visitor Survey)

With the targeted assistance and support of the NATIVE Act, AIANTA believes Tribes can significantly expand domestic and international visitors to Indian Country within 5 years. Currently, the only data available estimating overseas visitors to Indian Country is collected by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Based on this data, there were 1.9 million overseas visitors to Indian Country in 2017, spending an estimated \$8.5 billion per year throughout the United States. In the next 5 years, overseas visitors to Indian Country are projected to grow to 2.2 million and \$9.4 billion annually. The increase represents approximately 4300 jobs. With additional NATIVE Act funding, more domestic visitors and their spending and job creation in Indian Country can be tracked.

SUCCESS OF THE NATIVE ACT SECURED THROUGH THE AIANTA/BIA PARTNERSHIP

For a decade, through its cooperative agreement/grant with BIA Division of Transportation, AIANTA has nurtured a network of Federal agency, university and tourism industry partners and engaged national Indian and non-Indian nonprofits to leverage those Federal resources into an effective Tribal tourism network. With our partners, AIANTA and BIA have accomplished many milestones, including:

- Delivered Tribal tourism technical assistance, created Tribal tourism curricula and developed a professional certificate-training program in cultural tourism and conducted webinar trainings.
- Established a national Tribal destinations web site, NativeAmerica.Travel, for Tribes to market their destinations directly to the world's travelers.
- Expanded partnerships to improve data collection and analysis.
- Developed the first national resource database of Indian Country tourism assets to begin to demonstrate the growth and impact of cultural tourism for Indian Country and the greater U.S.A. economy and is expanding the database to identify proposed development and needs (technical assistance and training, infrastructure, connectivity, marketing, funding and more).
- Gained national and regional recognition through grants and awards from private and public entities to further create opportunities for Tribes in tourism.
- Established a presence for Tribes and Tribal businesses in international travel markets-participating in world travel marketplaces in Europe as well as IPW, U.S. Travel Association's leading international inbound travel trade show in the U.S. and venturing into the United Kingdom and Italian markets.
- Encouraged project partnerships between Tribes and national parks and national public lands, conducted educational sessions in agritourism, organized a

Federal land management working group, and discussed next steps in collaboration with the Federal agencies.

ACCELERATING TRIBAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT THROUGH NATIVE ACT
IMPLEMENTATION

Fiscal year 2020 funding will:

- Improve visitor data collection and analysis. Decision-making, business planning, applying for loans and attracting capital all require data collection and analysis. AIANTA cannot cite the number of.
- tourism assets or domestic visitation to Indian Country because there is inadequate data. The data collection and analysis provision of the NATIVE Act will improve this deficiency.
- Support the consultation process that provides for collaboration and cooperation between Federal agencies and Tribes on Tribal tourism priorities.
- Promote greater awareness to Tribes on Federal programs that can support tourism capacity building and tourism infrastructure.
- Increase international and domestic awareness of Tribal tourism destinations.
- Integrate Native American, Alaska and Hawaiian Native culture into the visitor experience on public lands.
- Increase tourism product and amenity development in Indian Country, promoting a better visitor experience.
- Create innovative visitor portals between Tribes and parks, landmarks, heritage and cultural sites that showcase the diversity of indigenous people related to Federal lands.
- Improve access to transportation programs that assist Tribal community capacity building for tourism and trade, including planning for visitor enhancement and safety.

We are supported in the implementation of the NATIVE Act by the U.S. Travel Association, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Alaska Federation of Natives, All Pueblo Council of Governors, Nevada Inter-Tribal Council, Intertribal Transportation Association, Sitka Tribes of Alaska and many other organizations and Tribes.

CONCLUSION

On behalf of Indian Country, AIANTA thanks Congress for its support of Tribal tourism. We look forward to working with this subcommittee, the Department of Interior and all Federal agencies included in the NATIVE Act mandate to assist tourism Tribes and share the results with you and all our Congressional supporters. Increased funding will help Tribes initiate programs and create business in Tribal tourism, while supporting cultural perpetuation in the arts, language, historic preservation, conservation and agriculture.

[This statement was submitted by Camille L. Ferguson, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of appropriations for the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Smithsonian Institution for fiscal year 2020. We encourage Congress to provide the USGS with \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2020 and at least \$234 million for the Ecosystems mission area within USGS. We further request that Congress provide EPA Science and Technology with at least \$760 million, which was equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. We also request the restoration of funding for Science Support in USFWS to the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$17.3 million. Lastly, we urge Congress to provide new funding to the Smithsonian Institution and at least \$53 million to support scientific and curatorial work within the National Museum of Natural History in fiscal year 2020.

AIBS is a scientific association dedicated to promoting informed decisionmaking that advances biological research and education for the benefit of science and society. AIBS works to ensure that the public, legislators, funders, and the community of biologists have access to information to guide informed decisionmaking.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The USGS provides unbiased, independent research, data, and assessments that are needed by public and private sector decision-makers. Data generated by the USGS save taxpayers money by enabling more effective management of water and

biological resources and providing essential geospatial information that is needed for commercial activity and natural resource management. The data collected by the USGS are not available from other sources.

The Ecosystems activity within USGS is integral to the agency's other science mission areas. It conducts research required to understand the impacts of such things as water use and natural hazards on environmental systems. The USGS conducts research on and monitors fish, wildlife, and vegetation-data that informs management decisions by other Interior bureaus.

Biological science programs, housed within the Ecosystems program area, collect and analyze long-term data not available from other sources. Other agencies, universities, and the private sector do not gather or maintain these data. The knowledge generated by USGS is used by Federal and State natural resource managers to maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems while balancing the needs of public use.

Examples of successful USGS Ecosystem initiatives include:

- Development of comprehensive geospatial data products that characterize the risk of wildfires on all lands in the United States. These products are used to allocate firefighting resources and to plan wildfire fuel reduction projects. These tools require current and accurate information about plant species distribution, biomass (e.g. amount of energy available for fire), and how different animals within the landscape influence the distribution of this vegetation.
- Development and evaluation of control measures and other management interventions for Asian carp, sea lamprey, Burmese pythons, and other invasive species that cause billions of dollars in economic losses to fisheries, hydropower, recreation, and many other industries.
- Development of the scientific understanding needed to combat the spread of avian flu, white-nose syndrome, chronic wasting disease, and other diseases spread by wildlife in North America, including diseases with the capacity to jump from wild populations to livestock, agricultural systems, and humans.

The President's fiscal year 2020 budget request restructures the Ecosystems mission area to include programs formerly under Land Resources and Environmental Health mission areas, specifically the National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers, significant portions of Land Change Science, and Contaminant Biology. The budget does not merely reposition these programs, it proposes deep cuts (nearly 35 percent) to this important work. These cuts will harm USGS scientific research.

Among the proposed cuts are:

- Elimination of curation and research on fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals that is conducted by the Biological Survey Unit at the Smithsonian Institution.* USGS has more than a million specimens of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles that are housed at the Smithsonian for the benefit of the USGS and Department of the Interior. These curatorial and research positions are required to maintain and use these specimens and the data associated with them. This management arrangement has been in place since 1889. Elimination of this program jeopardizes the ability of the USGS to access timely and accurate data required for biodiversity research that informs species management decisions by other State and Federal agencies.
- Elimination of the Cooperative Research Units (CRUs).* CRUs are located on 40 university campuses in 38 States. These research centers are a cost-effective way for USGS to leverage research and technical expertise affiliated with these universities to conduct actionable research, provide technical assistance, and develop scientific workforces through graduate education and mentoring programs.
- Reduced wildlife and fisheries research.* The proposal includes reductions for species-specific research. USGS conducts this research for the benefit of Federal and State stakeholders. Without these research programs, USFWS, the National Park Service, and other Interior bureaus will lack the data required to fulfill agency missions to manage wildlife, as these agencies do not have scientific research capacities. Moreover, the USGS is a non-regulatory agency, which means that its research is independent of the entities responsible for developing and implementing rules and regulations.
- Reduced research on diseases.* USGS is the leading Federal agency conducting research on wildlife and fish diseases. The deep cuts proposed to Toxicological and Pathogenic Diseases would crush the agency's ability to provide other agencies with critical research, information, and technical assistance needed to economically and effectively control and limit disease spread and risk.
- Reduced research on ecosystems of concern.* This research is a critical component of efforts to restore important national resources, such as the Everglades and

the Chesapeake Bay. The Arctic ecosystem research and monitoring program addresses the needs of Native communities, and also promotes public health throughout the U.S. by monitoring avian influenza, which can spread to humans.

The President has also proposed drastic cuts to climate research. The National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (formerly regional Climate Science Centers) are responsible for developing the science and tools to address the effects of climate change on land, water, wildlife, fish, ecosystems, and communities. These centers play a vital role in addressing the impacts of unique weather patterns on ecosystem health in different areas across the country and are slated for a 46 percent budget cut under the new structure. This is irresponsible.

We are pleased that the Invasive Species Program was spared from large cuts in the administration's request and we urge Congress to reject the deep cuts to other parts of the Ecosystems mission area. We understand USGS's efforts to realign programs to improve operational efficiency, but the devastating budget cuts proposed will hamper long-term data collection initiatives, lead to critical data loss, and undermine the Nation's ability to address national challenges.

We request Congress fund USGS at \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2020, with at least \$234 million for the Ecosystems mission area and restore funding for the Biological Survey Unit, CRUs, and ecosystems and climate research.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Funding for EPA Science and Technology supports valuable research used to identify and mitigate environmental problems. EPA research informs decisions made by public health and safety managers, natural resource managers, businesses, and other stakeholders concerned about air and water pollution, human health, and land management and restoration. This program provides the scientific basis upon which EPA monitoring and enforcement programs are built.

Despite the important role of EPA Science and Technology research, the proposed funding level for fiscal year 2020 is roughly half of what the program received in fiscal year 2002 and 35 percent below the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. We are concerned to see the proposed eliminations of the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Research Grants and the Global Change Research program, which develops scientific information that allows policy makers, stakeholders, and society to respond to climate change. These programs are important parts of the Federal Government's ability to ensure that people have clean air and water. The proposal also eliminates the Marine Pollution and National Estuary programs which are critical for protecting marine and coastal ecosystems.

Please provide at least \$760 million in fiscal year 2020 to support scientific research at the EPA.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The President's budget request once again eliminates the Science Support program within USFWS. In fiscal year 2019, Congress allocated \$17.3 million for the program. This program provides scientific information needed by USFWS, such as research on conservation of priority species prior to Endangered Species Act listing, the impacts of energy production on wildlife, and best management practices for combating invasive species, and needs to be restored.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) is a valuable Federal partner in the curation and research on scientific specimens. The scientific experts at the NMNH care for 140 million specimens and ensure the strategic growth of this internationally recognized scientific research institution. To increase the availability of these scientific resources to researchers, educators, other Federal agencies, and the public, NMNH is working on a multi-year effort to digitize its collections. That effort will substantially increase the scientific uses of these collections.

NMNH has also been working to strengthen curatorial and research staffing and to backfill positions left open by retirements and budget constraints. The current staffing level is insufficient to provide optimal care for the collections. Future curatorial and collections management staffing levels may be further jeopardized given the proposed funding cuts at science agencies, such as the USGS, that support staff positions at NMNH.

The budget for NMNH has remained flat over the past 2 years. We urge Congress to provide NMNH with at least \$53 million in fiscal year 2020 to allow the museum

to undertake critical collections care, make needed technology upgrades, and conduct cutting edge research.

CONCLUSION

We urge Congress to reject the administration's budget request for fiscal year 2020 and continue the bipartisan tradition of investing in our Nation's scientific capacity. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

[This statement was submitted by Jyotsna Pandey, Ph.D., Public Policy Manager, and Robert Gropp, Ph.D., Executive Director.]

LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

April 1, 2019

Senator Richard Shelby, *Chairman*
Committee on Appropriations
United States Capitol, S-128
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy, *Vice Chairman*
Committee on Appropriations
United States Capitol, S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lisa Murkowski, *Chairwoman*
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tom Udall, *Ranking Member*
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

I am writing with regard to the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill. As you craft your bill, I would respectfully request that you provide at least the level of funding you provided in fiscal year 2019 for American Samoa Operations Grants within the Territorial Assistance program.

In the best of times American Samoa faces serious financial challenges. Unlike other American territories, American Samoa does not enjoy the economic benefits of a robust tourism industry or the presence of a military installation. We have one significant private sector employer and our remote location makes it more expensive to do business from American Samoa than from other islands in the region or from Asia, placing us at a competitive disadvantage as we seek to attract more businesses.

Our fragile economic position has been further challenged since we were victimized by Cyclone Gita in February 2018. Gita devastated our agricultural sector and caused widespread damage across the territory, something the Committee recognized in its Fiscal Year 2019 Interior Appropriations Report:

"American Samoa.—The Committee is concerned about the longterm impact of Cyclone Gita on American Samoa, particularly as it relates to impending increase in the minimum wage and how that will impact American Samoa's economy and its ability to recover."

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the Committee for including \$5 million in supplemental nutrition assistance for American Samoa in the pending Fiscal Year 2019 Disaster Supplemental bill. Our hope is that this number will be increased to a total of \$18 million so that the final amount will provide adequate assistance to our 2,600 farmers who lost an entire growing season, depriving them of not only their livelihood for the year but also the food with which these subsistence/backyard farmers feed themselves and their 13,000 dependents.

It is in this overall context that I ask for your assistance with regard to the American Samoa Operations Grants program. As you well know the President's budget for fiscal year 2020 proposes funding of \$21,529,000, a reduction of more than 9 percent from the \$23,720,000 included in the fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act. While the difference in those amounts, \$2,191,000, is no more than a rounding error in a \$4 trillion Federal budget, it makes a very significant difference to our government's ability to provide essential services to our 60,000 citizens given our economic circumstances.

Your thoughtful consideration of this request would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

LOLO M. MOLIGA,
Governor of American Samoa

cc: Honorable David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Department of the Interior
Honorable Douglas Domenech, Assistant Secretary, Office of Insular & International Affairs
Honorable Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Lieutenant Governor

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
Interior & Environment, Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairwoman
Interior & Environment, House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Interior & Environment, Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Interior & Environment, House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwomen Murkowski and McCollum and Ranking Members Udall and Joyce:

Since 1926, the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), a 501(c)3 non-profit, has been dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing our coasts by merging science and public policy. Our members are industry, local government officials, academics and residents of coastal districts; we are advocates for healthy coastlines.

Testimony for Senate Interior, Environment and related agencies Appropriations subcommittee for fiscal year 2020, for the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

1. *Provide \$46 million for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Coastal-Marine Hazards and Resources Program (CMHRP)*

Coastal shoreline counties contribute \$6.9 trillion to our GDP¹. Coastal habitats including beaches, wetlands, mangroves and estuarine systems are some of the most ecologically productive and economically important on earth.² But perhaps most importantly to communities that live along a coast, a healthy coastline provides protection of life and property from the hazards of living by the water—storm surge, waves, and sea level rise. With this in mind, we ask you to increase funding for USGS CMHRP beyond the administration's request.

The research done by USGS CMHRP is critical for helping make coastal communities more resilient to extreme weather and less reliant on Federal recovery funds. Working with its partners, the CMHRP delivers actionable assessments of coastal hazards and helps to develop effective strategies for achieving more-resilient communities. For example, CMHRP plans to develop improved methodologies to measuring shoreline change data that covers not only sandy, but also coral and wetland shorelines. Leveraging this data and through enhancement of existing models, the CMHRP will be able to extend forecasts and projections of shoreline position to span time scales from single storms to the end of the current century. Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private-sector end-users incorporate these analyses to better un-

¹NOAA, State of the Coast, 2012. <http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/>.

²Barbier, Et al, "The value of estuarine and coastal ecosystem services", Ecological Monographs, 2011. <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1890/10-1510.1>.

derstand, anticipate, and reduce their risks through science-based decisionmaking. Increased funding for the CMHRP will allow for improved real-time and long-term storm forecasts, as well as data characterizing protective dunes and beaches.

ASBPA also strongly supports USGS's agency-wide efforts to provide critical tools and data to support coastal research and therefore improved coastal decision-making. Whether by tracking hydrologic contaminants, deploying tools to improve flood mapping or providing coastal LIDAR and imagery data-sets, USGS provides critical information to the entire coastal scientific community. These programs should be supported and funded to help improve the United States' ability to plan and prepare for coastal hazards.

2. *Increase funding to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Marine Minerals Program (MMP) for environmental studies and to support:*
 - a. Conveyance of Sand Resources
 - b. National Offshore Sand Inventory
 - c. Marine Mineral Information System

As a means of improving their resilience to coastal hazards, communities are increasingly looking towards marine sediment for nature-based protection. The BOEM Marine Minerals Program (MMP) facilitates access to non-energy marine minerals, particularly sand and gravel, for shore protection and coastal restoration projects. The National Offshore Sand Inventory and the Marine Mineral Information System are excellent resources for managers to understand available resources while facilitating the sustainable and efficient management of our offshore marine minerals. As communities continue to increase their resilience and assess their adaptation options, BOEM MMP will be a critical piece to their success.

Additionally, funding for environmental studies in the MMP will support the scientific research and long-term monitoring of these resources that will help reduce the impacts of these activities. For example, in fiscal year 2018, BOEM worked cooperatively with the Civil Works and Regulatory Programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prepare several environmental documents and conduct independent reviews evaluating the potential impacts from beach nourishment and coastal restoration projects, including the dredging of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand and its placement on recipient beaches. These efforts are vital to ensuring that the potential impacts of OCS activities on the environment are understood and that appropriate protective measures are applied.

ASBPA also supports BOEM's proposed creation of a specific Marine Minerals budget activity line in fiscal year 2020.

3. *Increase funding to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to address permitting needs and reduce the consultation backlog*

Consultation with resource agencies helps identify effective mitigation practices to avoid or minimize harm to protected or managed species and habitat. Considering the backlog in consultation provided by the USFWS and the increase in coastal restoration and shore protection projects, ASBPA encourages an increase in funding to USFWS permitting resources to address these needs while still maintaining thorough and necessary permitting review.

Sincerely,



Derek Brockbank
Executive Director

cc: Sens. Richard Shelby, Pat Leahy; Reps. Nita Lowey, Kay Granger; *Chairs & Ranking Members, Appropriations Committee*

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

On behalf of our over 2 million supporters, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. Founded in 1866, the ASPCA is the first humane organization established in the Americas and serves as the Nation's leading voice for animal welfare. We request that the subcommittee consider the following concerns when making fiscal year 2020 appropriations.

WILD HORSES AND THE BLM

In the over 45 years since Congress charged the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with protecting our country's wild horses and burros, Americans have witnessed the agency's Wild Horse and Burro Program deteriorate into a continuous cycle of costly roundups and removals with little regard for the preservation-focused mandate specified in the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act or on-range management of the herds. Our wild horses and burros should be revered as historical icons, treated humanely, and managed fairly and respectfully on our public lands. Recognizing that the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program is in dire need of an overhaul, the ASPCA has partnered with a diverse group of stakeholders to propose a non-lethal, humane, and long-term approach to on-range management that would implement a sweeping fertility control program on the range and eventually release the BLM from a continuous cycle of round-ups, removals, and holdings. We appreciate BLM's acknowledgement of the need for reform in the Wild Horse and Burro Program and are encouraged by their recognition of the need for long-term strategies for on-range management that will require substantial investment of resources. This approach will, within a few years, provide significant relief for the range and enable all the stakeholders to come together around a single solution. It is critical for the agency to commit to non-lethal management rather than pressing to relax legal restrictions on sale to slaughter or mass killing of healthy horses. It is also critical for the agency to augment its capacity for gathers and focus its attention on the high priority HMAs where horses, wildlife and the range are most at risk. It is imperative that robust fertility control work begin immediately.

Prohibit BLM Funding for Euthanasia or Sale of Wild Horses as Management Methods

In December 2004, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2005, which amended the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to allow for the sale of certain wild horses and burros. This instant transfer of title from the U.S. Government to the individual purchaser strips key protections for wild mustangs and burros, making them vulnerable to the still-thriving horse slaughter industry. Additionally, we take issue with the characterization of large-scale killing of healthy wild horses as "euthanasia." The agency currently has the authority to euthanize old, sick or injured horses, but not healthy horses, as a means of population control. If allowed, destruction of healthy horses would most likely be accomplished using gunshot from some distance. That is not humane euthanasia.

In past appropriations bills, Congress has repeatedly confirmed its opposition to the slaughter of our Nation's wild horses and burros; it did so most recently in the fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act, the current funding vehicle for the Department of Interior. The ASPCA requests that the subcommittee continue to include the following language: "Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the Bureau or its contractors or for the sale of wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products."

Prohibit Forest Service Funding for Euthanasia or Sale of Wild Horses as Management Methods

Past appropriations bills have not explicitly prohibited the Forest Service, which also manages wild horses and burros under the 1971 Act, from managing horses through lethal methods. This loophole was recently exploited when managers of the Modoc National Forest proposed selling wild horses from the Devil's Garden herd without limits on slaughter. The House Interior subcommittee has included new language to address this deficiency in their draft fiscal year 2020 bill. The ASPCA requests that the subcommittee include the following language in the Senate bill: "Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the Forest Service or its contractors or for the sale of wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products."

Implement Existing, and Explore New, Methods for On-Range and Off-Range Management

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act makes clear that on-range management should be preferred over roundup and removal as the primary method of wild horse management. BLM has multiple options at its disposal to follow that guidance. Effective, humane management will require a multifaceted approach. We suggest that the following strategies be implemented simultaneously:

- Conduct targeted gathers and removals at densely populated Herd Management Areas (HMAs) to reduce herd size in the short term.

- Treat gathered horses with fertility control prior to returning them to the range. This program should continue until 80–90 percent of mares on the range have been treated, followed by continued consistent fertility control.
- Relocate horses in holding facilities, and those taken off the range, to large cost-effective pasture facilities funded through public-private partnerships.
- Promote adoptions in order to reduce captive populations and costs.

The four tiers of this approach—gathers and removals, fertility treatment, public-private partnerships, and adoptions—are crucial to the ultimate success of the program. Failure to effectively implement any part of this program jeopardizes the success of a holistic and sustainable wild horse and burro program. If employed correctly, this plan will result in a natural population decline over the next decade. We support this humane, effective, and financially sustainable approach.

The ASPCA appreciates BLM's public acknowledgement that fertility control methods must be a significant part of wild horse population management. Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP), the contraceptive vaccine that has been used for decades to manage horse and deer populations, is registered by EPA and commercially available. In fiscal year 2018, the BLM administered 702 fertility control treatments.¹ If PZP is to be a serious part of the solution, its use must be increased to levels that will significantly impact population growth. A 2013 National Academy of Sciences report noted the promising capabilities of this and other forms of chemical fertility control.² The ASPCA recommends that the subcommittee direct BLM to prioritize the use of fertility control to stem the population growth of wild horse and burro herds.

The ASPCA strongly encourages the subcommittee to prioritize and robustly fund humane on-range management methods, and innovative and humane off-range programs, as it crafts the fiscal year 2020 Interior appropriations bill.

[This statement was submitted by Nancy Perry, Senior Vice President, Government Relations.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) at no less than \$167.5 million for fiscal year 2020, a \$12.5 million increase over fiscal year 2019 funding. This would also match the funding level that the U.S. House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee approved on May 15, 2019.

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. We have more than 55 years of service and are dedicated to representing and serving the more than 5,000 local arts agencies in every State. Together we work to ensure that every American has access to the transformative power of the arts. I appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment on the budget request for the NEA.

I was deeply troubled by the administration's short-sightedness for the proposed fiscal year 2018, 2019, and 2020 budgets calling for the elimination of the NEA. I commend the bipartisan work from this committee, and Congress, in rejecting those requests, and I know that I speak for the arts community in our appreciation to Congress in appropriating an additional \$2 million in funds for the NEA in fiscal year 2019 over fiscal year 2018.

Receiving consecutive years of incremental funding increases, the NEA's investment in every congressional district in the country now contributes to a \$804.2 billion arts and culture industry in America according to our U.S. Department of Commerce, representing 4.3 percent of the annual GDP. The Nation's arts and culture industry supports 5 million jobs and yields a \$25 billion trade surplus for our country.¹

This recent study by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis also found that 13 States had an average annual growth rate above the national average of 5.9 percent, as measured over the three-year period of 2014–2016. These States were the fastest-growing for the percentage of their gross State product coming from arts and cultural industries and include: California (7.8 percent), Tennessee (7.8 percent), Florida (7.1 percent), Montana (6.6 percent), and Oregon (6.5 percent).

¹“Program Data.” U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. April 27, 2018. <https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/about-the-program/program-data>.

²“Using Science to Improve the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward.” National Research Council. The National Academies Press, 2013.

¹U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, <https://www.bea.gov/system/files/2019-03/acpsa0319.pdf>

Further, every NEA grant dollar leverages at least \$9 in private and other public funds, generating more than \$500 million in matching support. This leveraging power far surpasses the required non-Federal match of at least 1:1 and illustrates why Federal support for the arts is uniquely valuable. The Federal investment in the arts helps power the creative economy across the country.

Proportionally, the NEA's budget is just 0.004 percent of the Federal budget. That amounts to 47 cents per capita. In fact, the NEA budget has been losing its share of Federal discretionary spending and failing to keep pace with inflation since 1992 when the appropriation was for \$176 million. When adjusted for inflation, the NEA's 1992 budget would today be more than twice the current budget.²

Regarding our request for fiscal year 2020, we hope that the NEA will receive funding at the same level as the recent high point of \$167.5 million, which Congress appropriated on a bipartisan basis in fiscal year 2010.

We estimate that a \$12.5 million increase, based on current NEA programming would provide:

- An increase in the total amount for direct endowment grants by about \$6 million.
- An increase in the total number of direct grants by about 210.
- An increase of \$4 million to the NEA's State partnership agreement, which would result in about 2,000 additional State grants.
- With the NEA estimation of a 9:1 return for each direct grant dollar, an 8 percent funding level increase would be expected to leverage an additional \$40 million in non-Federal matching support.

NEA grants are remarkably far-reaching, and they touch many communities which have fewer opportunities to experience the arts. According to the NEA, the majority of direct grants go to small- and medium-sized organizations, which often support projects for audiences that otherwise might not have access to arts programming. In fiscal year 2017:

- Small-sized organizations (less than \$500,000 in prior year expenditures) received 31 percent of the NEA's direct grants;
- Medium-sized organizations (\$500,000 to \$2 million in prior year expenditures) received about 34 percent; and
- Large organizations (over \$2 million) received 35 percent of direct grant awards.

In examining the communities that NEA grants touch, it is important to note that:

- 40 percent of NEA-supported activities take place in high-poverty neighborhoods;
- 36 percent of NEA grants go to organizations that reach underserved populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans; and
- 33 percent of NEA grants serve low-income audiences.³

I'd like to highlight one very important NEA initiative—that of the Creative Forces program. An increase in funding for the NEA is vital in order to sustain and expand important work that serves the needs of military service members and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions. Much of this work is being supported through targeted programs such as the NEA's Creative Forces Military Healing Arts Network (administered through a cooperative agreement with Americans for the Arts), as well as community arts engagement programs receiving Federal grants and State and local arts agencies. The modest investment in government funding for arts and health in the military is instrumental in allowing military service members and veterans to heal and successfully reintegrate into society and their communities, as well as supporting military families and caregivers in their pathway to health and well-being.

The Creative Forces program—currently at 11 clinical sites—utilizes 14 NEA-funded and four DoD/VA-funded creative arts therapists (CATs), who are integrated into interdisciplinary treatment teams providing art therapy, music therapy, dance/movement therapy, and creative writing instruction for service members with TBI and associated psychological health issues. In 2018, more than 16,000 patient encounters took place, and over 3,000 new patients were served. Additionally, the program significantly invests in related research, with 11 new studies underway and nine already published.

²Americans for the Arts, https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/1.%20National%20Endowment%20for%20the%20Arts_0.pdf

³National Endowment for the Arts, https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/NEA_Quick_Facts_2018_V.1.pdf.

Throughout the country, we see an increase of arts and military programs funded by State and local public and private sources catalyzed by the Federal investment. Many of the creative arts therapies and community arts engagement programs that are making a difference in the lives of our military service members, veterans, their families, and caregivers are being documented and networked through Americans for the Arts' National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military. Several examples here are administered and take place in your districts:

- The Montana Museum of Arts & Culture at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, features an exhibit of the POW collection of art by veteran and artist Ben Steele. Mr. Steele, 98, who lives in Billings, is a World War II veteran and Bataan Death March survivor. As a prisoner he created drawings documenting the Japanese invasion of the Philippines and the capture of POWs. These artworks are among the very few firsthand accounts of the Bataan Death March.
- Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson, Mississippi, with the Sonny Montgomery VA Center hosted the 2016 National Creative Arts Festival Stage Show. Each year approximately 120 Veterans from VA medical facilities across the Nation exhibit their artwork or perform musical, dance, drama, or original writing selections that are chosen from year-long competitions held at their local facilities.
- Military Experience & the Arts in Morgantown, West Virginia, works with veterans and their families to publish creative prose, poetry, and artwork. Volunteers include college professors, professional authors, veterans' advocates, and clinicians. Veterans and their families pay nothing for the services.
- The Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin, Missouri, is designated nationally as a Blue Star Museum, a collaboration between the NEA, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and Museums Across America. Spiva Center for the Arts' Vet Art program was established in early 2017 to serve military veterans in the Joplin region. Vet Art offers free art workshops to veterans and their families providing camaraderie, reintegration into their communities, and an outlet for self-expression.

Continuing and expanding creative arts therapies and community arts engagement programs is essential to reaching military veterans with TBI and post-traumatic stress. For example, 85 percent of military patients say art therapy is helpful to their healing and military patients consistently rate art therapy among the top four treatments out of more than 40 health interventions offered.

This work is vital for active duty military, staff, veterans, their families, and caregivers across the military, public, private, and nonprofit sectors. It will advance the policy, practice, and quality use of arts and creativity as tools for health in the military, better ensuring the readiness, resilience, and retention, while assisting the eventual reintegration from military to civilian life.

In sum, Federal funding fosters investment, spurs job-related growth, expands educational opportunities, helps our country, and provides for the preservation of our heritage.

Thank you for your consideration and support of at least \$167.5 million for the NEA in the fiscal year 2020 budget, and, as always, we stand ready to assist and remain focused on increasing funding for the Endowments in the coming months.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

The Animal Welfare Institute, a national animal welfare advocacy nonprofit organization, asks the subcommittee to maintain adequate funding levels for crucial wildlife programs and to include measures to protect wild horses, bats, and other at-risk species.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)—WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS

The BLM continues to mismanage America's wild horses and burros, relying on an endless cycle of costly removals from public lands instead of implementing viable solutions, such as immunocontraception to control fertility rates and manage these animals in their natural habitats. We ask the Committee to urge the agency to implement the use of the porcine zona pellucida (PZP) vaccine, as per the National Academy of Sciences recommendation. Moreover, we strongly support the continued inclusion of the Committee's language to ensure that the BLM does not destroy wild horses and burros: "Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the case of the Bureau or its contractors or for the sale of wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products."

The BLM is attempting for the third time to move forward with a controversial experiment using federally protected horses that would subject wild mares to an invasive surgical procedure known as “ovariectomy via colpotomy,” which involves blindly locating the ovaries and severing them using a rod-like tool while the animal remains conscious. In its report on wild horse management, the NAS explicitly warned BLM against using this procedure due to the risks of serious complications. We ask the Committee to include language ensuring that funds shall not be made available to implement the “ovariectomy via colpotomy” experiments, as well as report language directing the BLM to forgo using wild horse and burro management methods that the NAS has recommended against using.

FOREST SERVICE—WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS

In the fall of 2018, the Forest Service announced that it would sell rounded-up wild horses from the Devil’s Garden wild horse territory without restrictions or limitations on slaughter. The FS has traditionally abided by Congress’s clear intent on this matter—namely, the explicit restrictions enacted through the Interior appropriations bill to prevent the BLM from selling wild horses for slaughter. However, the FS now contends that the agency is not covered by this language, and seeks to move forward with plans to sell federally protected wild horses “without limitation.” Appropriations language is needed to clarify that the FS is similarly bound by restrictions regarding the commercial destruction of wild horses. We urge the Committee to incorporate language that mirrors the provisions that bar the BLM from facilitating the destruction of healthy, unadopted wild horses and burros. The recently released fiscal year 2020 House Interior bill includes such language, so we urge the Senate to do the same.

TROPHY HUNTING

We urge you to include language prohibiting the use of funds for:

- Issuing any permit authorizing import into or export from the United States of a sport-hunted species that is listed or proposed to be listed under section 4(c) as a threatened species or endangered species.
- Issuing any permit authorizing import from any country of a sport-hunted threatened or endangered species until the Secretary determines that the country where the animal was killed adequately provides for the conservation, monitoring, and reporting for that species, including but not limited to:
 - (A) the country where the animal was killed has a management plan for that species based on the best available science that addresses existing threats to the species; provides a significant conservation benefit to the species; formally coordinates with adjacent countries to protect transboundary populations; and ensures that any take is sustainable and does not contribute to the species’ decline in either the short-term or long-term according to current population estimates derived through use of the best available science;
 - (B) the management plan required in subsection (3)(A) is fully funded and is being actively implemented; and
 - (C) the country where the animal was killed demonstrates transparency, accountability, and verifiability in governance to ensure that any benefits, including revenue from such taking, materially, directly, and substantially benefits the conservation of that species.
- Issuing any permit authorizing import from any country of a sport-hunted threatened or endangered species until the Secretary has made a finding, after public notice and comment pursuant to section 553 of title 5 USC, that hunting of the species in such country enhances the propagation or survival of the species.
- Issuing any permit authorizing import of a sport-hunted trophy of an elephant or lion taken in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, or Zambia.

In 2014 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a rule banning the importation of African elephant trophies from Tanzania and Zimbabwe into the United States. A 2016 decision by the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia upheld FWS’s 2014 ban, finding that sport hunting of elephants in Zimbabwe would not enhance the survival of the species. In addition, the FWS suspended imports of sport-hunted African lions after they were listed under the Endangered Species Act in 2015. However, since October 2017, FWS has tried to reverse the bans on importing both African elephant and lion trophies. In March 2018, in apparent disregard for President Trump’s negative comments regarding trophy hunting, the agency issued a memo announcing that decisions about whether to approve importation of sport-

hunted elephant and lion trophies would be made on a “case-by-case basis,” rather than having rules that apply to specific species and countries of origin.

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

We urge you to include language prohibiting the use of funds for the International Wildlife Conservation Council of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The stated goal of the International Wildlife Conservation Council is to boost public awareness of the “benefits that result from U.S. citizens traveling to foreign nations to engage in hunting.” However, trophy hunting is unethical, unpopular, and of unproven conservation value. Furthermore, the IWCC is duplicative of other councils and a wasteful use of government funding. The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that “new advisory committees should be established only when they are determined to be essential and their number should be kept to the minimum necessary.” This council is not essential, and its function is already covered by the very broad mandate of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. Despite its nonessential function, this 18-person council meets twice per year with “travel expenses, including per diem,” covered by US taxpayer dollars. The makeup of this new council is also of significant concern, with designated seats for representatives of the firearms and ammunition industries, who have no scientific or conservation expertise. There is no seat at the table for experts with a scientific or conservation focus. Furthermore, the Trump administration has already abandoned other, more legitimate and effective efforts to address these issues. For instance, the administration has not held a meeting of the Wildlife Trafficking Advisory Council or the Federal Interagency Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking created by President Obama.

TRAPPING-FUNDING REQUEST: \$300,000 OVER 3 YEARS

We urge you to direct the Secretary to institute a 3-year pilot program that replaces the use of body-gripping traps by agency personnel with humane alternative methods and equipment with only 2 exceptions: When the body-gripping trap is used either to (1) control documented, invasive species to achieve resource management objectives where humane alternative methods are documented to have been ineffective; or (2) protect a species that is listed as an endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or is treated by the Forest Service as a sensitive species and where humane alternative methods are documented to have been ineffective. The exceptions apply only under the following conditions: (1) such use of a body-gripping trap is in accordance with applicable State and Federal law; (2) prior to using a body-gripping trap, all available humane alternative methods for such control or protection, respectively, are attempted; and (3) such attempts are documented in writing, and such documentation is maintained at the headquarters of the department that employs the individual engaging in such attempt, and is published on the department’s website.

Body-gripping traps, such as strangling snares, Conibear traps, steel-jaw leghold traps, and enclosed foothold traps, are inhumane and inherently nonselective. The nontarget animals caught in these traps include threatened and endangered species, as well as family pets. These traps do not belong on public lands where families enjoy spending time outdoors, and where anyone who trips a trap can become a victim.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE: ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FUNDING

We are deeply concerned by a lack of adequate funding for Ecological Services, and urge the Committee to commit the maximum possible funding to this crucial program area responsible for implementing the Endangered Species Act. The fiscal year 2019 funding level of \$247.8 million is barely sufficient for the agency to carry out basic administrative functions required under the ESA, and does not enable the staffing necessary to address the backlog of hundreds of species awaiting listing decisions or other time-sensitive actions mandated by the law. ES requires a budget of at least \$486 million across its five programs to begin to make up for lost ground and put species on the path to recovery. Critically, this includes ensuring every listed species receives a minimum of \$50,000 per year for recovery.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM FUNDING

We support the administration’s proposed fiscal year 2020 increase of \$23 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System, given the crucial role that refuges across the country play in species conservation and nonconsumptive outdoor recreation.

USFWS: OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING

We support the administration's proposed fiscal year 2020 increase of \$327,000 for the Office of Law Enforcement at FWS. In particular, we support the increase of \$986,000 for the wildlife trafficking account. The OLE is one of the most important lines of defense for wildlife both at home and abroad.

USFWS: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FUNDING

We support the administration's proposed fiscal year 2020 increase of \$807,000 for International Affairs. In particular, we support the additional \$1 million for the wildlife trafficking account. The activities undertaken by IA build capacity and develop partnerships with other nations for species conservation, which enables maximum cooperation in fighting the terrorist organizations and international crime syndicates that profit from wildlife trafficking. It is important to ensure adequate funding to continue implementing Public Law 114-231, the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016. Additionally, adequate funding for implementation of agreements made under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) facilitates international cooperation and solidifies the US's leadership role on conservation issues.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME IN BATS

We urge the Committee to maintain funding amounts and directives from S. Rpt. 115-276, as endorsed by the fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act, H. Rpt. 116-9: Fish and Wildlife Service Science Support, \$3.5 million (including \$2 million for species recovery); FWS Wildlife Program, \$2.5 million for WNS studies; and to continue to lead on and implement the North American Bat Monitoring Program.

Thanks to consistent funding from Congress, the USFWS and its partners have made great strides in understanding and responding to WNS. The success of the national plan is heartening not only for the long term survival of bats but also for being a template for responding to future disease outbreaks. According to USFWS scientist Jeremy Coleman, who oversees the plan, "the multidisciplinary efforts spearheaded by USFWS represent the kinds of strategy needed for future responses to such epidemics. WNS and other fungal pathogens-diseases-that harm wildlife are on the rise, due to increased human visits to previously remote places . . . and also climate change . . ."

[This statement was submitted by Nancy Blaney, Director, Government Affairs.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION, HISPANIC ACCESS FOUNDATION, AND LATINOS IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Chairman Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510	The Honorable Tom Udall Ranking Member Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
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Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation, Hispanic Access Foundation, Latinos in Heritage Conservation, and the undersigned 43 groups and 66 individuals encourage the Committee on Appropriations to support the Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grant with a \$30 million appropriation for fiscal year 2020.

Funded through the National Park System's Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grant program would use non-tax payer dollars to partner with States and Tribes to help save important places in our communities. The HPF provides matching grants to State and Tribal historic preservation offices to support surveys of historic resources, training, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, and grants to local jurisdictions. HPF was established in 1977, is currently authorized at \$150 million per year, and is funded by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues, not tax dollars. These funds are spent

locally on preservation projects, with selection decisions made at the State level. In short, it makes preservation possible.

Historic preservation projects assisted by grants like the existing African American Civil Rights Grant Program generate billions of dollars in heritage tourism annually, while helping public and private partners tell unique and powerful stories of the African American struggle for equality in the 20th Century.

The expansion of the program to the Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grants will increase the program's impact by not only documenting, interpreting, and preserving the sites and stories related to a more inclusive story of American history, but also increasing the audience appeal for such projects. This proposed program expansion is an opportunity to multiply the economic impact of the existing program across the United States.

A review by the National Historic Landmarks Committee found that less than 8 percent (8 percent) of designated landmarks specifically represented the stories of Native Americans, African Americans, American Latinos, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, women, LGBTQ, and other underrepresented groups. There are few sites associated with these groups despite their long histories in the United States from the earliest settlement of the country to the economic development of the West to the desegregation of public schools in the 20th century and political influence in the 21st.

Including women, these groups make up more than 50 percent of the U.S. population. Representation matters; this Federal grant will allow us to narrate our stories, which may be misrepresented or otherwise ignored within a larger society, with accuracy and dignity. This promotes understanding and compassion and has the power to lessen social inequalities.

All Americans should be able to see themselves, their history, and their potential in both our collective story and our national landscape. As you consider fiscal year 2020 funding levels, we hope that you will continue the broad bi-partisan support for this National Park Service grant program that is vitally important to preserving so many more of our great American stories.

Sincerely,

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation
Hispanic Access Foundation
Latinos in Heritage Conservation

Co-Signed by:

2021	National LGBTQ Center for the Arts
African American Community, Cultural, and Educational Society	National Parks Conservation Association
Alamo City Democracy Project	National Trust for Historic Preservation
American Anthropological Association	Native American Land Conservancy
American Association for State and Local History	Native Womens Wilderness
American Cultural Resources Association	Nature For All
Asian American Studies Department and Center, UCLA	OCA Greater Chicago
Coalition for American Heritage	Pratt Institute
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation	Preservation Chicago
Curba	Preservation Texas
Chispa, League of Conservation Voters	Society for American Archaeology
Documents of Resistance	Society for Historical Archaeology
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center	Spanish Heritage Foundation of Riverside
Filipino American National Historical Society—Metro New York City Chapter	St. Mary's University
Filipino American National Historical Society	Tataviam Land Conservancy
GLBT Historical Society	The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
Hispanic Federation	Turning Wheel—University of San Diego
Indiana Landmarks	UC Davis Library/Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies
Landmarks Illinois	University of California, Riverside Public History Program
Latino Outdoors	University of Houston
	University of Maryland, College Park
	UT Austin
	Westside Preservation Alliance

Stuart Berman	Mabel Menard
Cathie Bond	Ward Miller
Tanya Bowers	Jane Montanaro
Caroline Calderon	Helen Mora
Antonia Castaneda, PhD	Beatrice Moreno
Marsh Davis	Sehila Mota Casper
Rachel Delgado	Ron Muriera
Lisa DiChiera	Adam Natenshon
John Dichtl	Kim Orbe
xenia diente	Gregg Orton
Doreen Duran	Alberto Pulido
Maria Espinosa	Ray Rast, PhD
Henry Flores	paul ruiz
Moisés García	Roxanne Ryce-Paul
John Gonzalez	Graciela Isabel Sánchez
Jaylyn Gough	Allan Jason Sarmiento
Sarah Zenaida Gould, PhD	Erica Schultz
Catherine Gudis, PhD	Mary Lu Seidel
Estella Habal, PhD	Antonio Serna
Lawana Holland-Moore	Carol Shull
Celeste Hong	Monica Sosa
Judy Jauregui	Alan Spears
Rita Jirasek	Roberto Tejada
Nicole Johnson	Evan Thompson
Lewis Kasner	Edward Torrez
Alvina Lai	Joseph Trujillo
Kristi Lin	Sharon Trujillo-Kasner
Kelly Lizarraga	Karen Umemoto, PhD
Mary Losh	Luis Villa
Jose Madrid	Bill Watanabe
Michelle Magalong, PhD	Shayne Watson
Magda Mankel	Lily Anne Welty Tamai
Nancy Melendez	

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM

FORT PECK RESERVATION RURAL WATER SYSTEM (\$3,210,000)

The Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water Supply System (ASRWSS) submits this testimony in strong support of continued Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Costs associated with the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System in the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Construction Account. The water system is authorized by an act of Congress (Public Law 106-382).

The Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water Supply System Board is a newly tribally chartered agency charged with the construction and operation of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water Supply System, which is the part of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System that is on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. We are strong partners with Dry Prairie Rural Water Supply System, which operates the part of the Project that is off the Reservation.

The most basic of governmental function is the delivery of clean, safe drinking water and we are honored that the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board has entrusted to us this most basic duty of government. The ASRWSS wants to thank the subcommittee for the full funding of Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement (OM&R) costs of the Water Project at \$2,634,000 in fiscal year 2019.

As the Project works toward completion our OM&R needs continue to increase. Thus, for fiscal year 2020 we will need an additional \$576,000 for total level of funding at \$3.210 million OM&R funding for the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System for fiscal year 2020, within appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Construction account.

This funding increase of \$576,000 is necessary for this System to safely operate with the correct level of staff and operating supplies, including chemicals. The System will provide drinking water to more than 20,000 residents in Northeast Montana in 2020 and several social and governmental agencies, including the BIA Agency Office, Poplar Schools, and Poplar hospital, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic site, as well as several towns including Wolf Point, Frazier, Culbertson, and Medicine Lake. The population served at

the end of 2016 was less than 10,000. By the end of 2020, a projected 98 percent of the current Reservation Service population will be served.

The Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System was authorized by the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000, Public Law 106–382. The measure ensures a safe and adequate municipal, rural and industrial water supply for the residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and assists the citizens of Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties in Montana develop safe and adequate municipal, rural and industrial water supplies.

As noted in the President’s previous budget requests:

Groundwater from shallow alluvial aquifers . . . for the municipal systems . . . is generally poor with concentrations of iron, manganese, sodium, sulfates, bicarbonates and total dissolved solids above recommended standards.

We must timely remedy this health risk.

The Project called for the construction of a single treatment plant on the Missouri River near Poplar, Montana that distributes water through 3,200 miles of pipeline to both the Reservation Tribal system and, through three interconnections, to the Dry Prairie system. A single water source on the Missouri River replaced nearly two dozen individual community water sources ensuring a clean, plentiful and safe water supply.

As a result of the success of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System, both on the Assiniboine and Sioux Reservation and off-Reservation communities, alternative water sources have been capped. There is no safe, reliable alternative if the on-Reservation 30,000 square foot water treatment plant, Missouri River intake, pumping stations and related infrastructure were to cease operations.

The Federal legislation authorizing the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System requires that the OM&R of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water Supply System—the portion on the Reservation that is held in trust by the Federal Government—be paid in full by the BIA as a Federal obligation. This is consistent with the Federal trust responsibility to the Tribes who were promised a permanent home when we agreed to move to the Reservation. A permanent home requires safe drinking water. If this funding is not made available to the Tribes, this system will have to shut down and all of the people, towns, and Federal, Tribal, State, public and private agencies, and businesses will have no source of drinking water.

Thus, the \$3.210 million requested in fiscal year 2020 for the OM&R of this vital infrastructure project is critical. At about 1 percent of the total \$300-plus million Federal investment in the project, the OM&R costs to protect public health and the Federal investment made over the last 17 years is a wise and prudent use of Federal funds—and represents good stewardship of the Federal investment of taxpayer funds in the infrastructure project.

The increased funding of \$576,000, over the fiscal year 2019 level for the OM&R of the Project, is needed as the Project buildout continues and has increased the population served by the rural water system. The expansion of the system requires additional personnel and other costs (power, chemicals, repairs, replacements and improvements) to operate and maintain the water treatment plant and associated facilities, including the intake, pipelines, pumping stations and reservoirs, to continue to meet the expanded service. Already, short-life components of the rural water system must be replaced to maintain the peak efficiency and reliability of the system.

If Congress does not appropriate the required funds for OM&R, as the law states, then this System will not operate, and the people of Northeast Montana will have no drinking water.

Again, we thank the subcommittee for the continued support of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System.

[This statement was submitted by Bill Whitehead, Chairman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

I am Floyd Azure, Chairman of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation. I would like to thank the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit testimony concerning fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS).

The Fort Peck Reservation is in northeast Montana, 40 miles west of the North Dakota border, and 50 miles south of the Canadian border, with the Missouri River defining its southern border. The Reservation encompasses over two million acres of land. We have approximately 12,000 enrolled Tribal members, with approxi-

mately 7,000 Tribal members living on the Reservation. We have a total Reservation population of approximately 11,000 people.

Congress has long recognized that the foundation for economic development and prosperity in Indian Country lay in community stability, which begins with infrastructure such as safe drinking water, roads, public safety, and healthcare. We thank the subcommittee for its long standing support of Tribal programs within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Service which are core Federal programs serving the Fort Peck Reservation and our members. We cannot support the President's budget proposal which proposes cuts to programs vital to Tribes. In our view, reducing funds for these Federal program—critical to addressing the many challenges facing Tribal governments and Indian people—is poor policy.

HUMAN SERVICES: SUBSTANCE ABUSE, SUICIDE, INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

We appreciate the subcommittee's continued commitment to addressing substance abuse and the consequential challenges that arise from this plague. When someone is suffering from addiction it is not just the person who is impacted, but the entire family. For Tribal communities, it is the entire Tribe that bears the impacts of families torn apart by substance abuse. We face higher poverty, higher foster care rates, higher suicide rates, and in the end our people die at far younger ages than the rest of the United States.

This last summer we had a rash of heroin overdoses, including two fatal overdoses in 1 month. Every month a child is born testing positive for meth or some other drug. We have entire families that are using, from grandmothers to grandchildren. There is no doubt that addiction is the leading cause of the 100 children that we have in foster care now. We, as a people, cannot survive if we do not acknowledge that what we are doing now is not working.

This level of social dysfunction in communities is no doubt the cause of the high suicide rate in our communities. The suicide rate on Montana Reservations is 22 percent higher than the rest of Montana. And for Fort Peck, a 2016 study indicated that 13 percent of our youth attempted suicide, that means that more than 1 in 10 of our children have tried to take their own lives.

While these statistics are startling, the tragedy is overwhelming for our families and communities because each of these statistics is a child, mother, father, sister, or brother. This last summer on our Reservation Michael Lee, a 13-year old boy took his life. This boy, this baby really, had a family that loved him. He played sports. He was determined to go to college. In many people's minds he had so much promise and was fortunate to have a family to support him. But something happened to him and we lost this child. Who knows what we as a Tribe lost because this young man lost hope and took his own life. He could have been a Tribal leader, a teacher, a scientist, a doctor, or maybe what we need most, a strong role model as a father. I can only tell you that it is time that we stop burying our children and start working together to combat this tragedy.

We would urge the Members of the subcommittee to continue to emphasize the need for additional mental health and substance abuse treatment services in Indian Country. In particular, we support the effort to develop a Special Behavioral Pilot Program similar to the Special Diabetes for Indians Program to combat behavioral/mental health issues among American Indian and Alaska Natives in a holistic and culturally appropriate way. We know that having a consistently funded program directly targeted to combating diabetes has reduced amputations and lowered diabetes rates throughout Indian Country. It is time that we have the same kind of program to target behavioral and mental health issues that our Tribal members face.

We also continue support the increased funding for BIA Social Service Programs, including our Indian Child Welfare programs, and the Tiwahe Initiative. We have to address these issues in a holistic fashion. We must work with individuals as they work to rebuild their lives and their families. We cannot look at a person as one dimensional. The same person who is dealing with addiction is often dealing with child custody issues, health issues, housing issues, and criminal issues. Thus, we need a team of people and programs to work collaboratively with a person to attack each of these challenges. These challenges can and often do overwhelm Tribal members. But if they know that there is a network of Tribal services and programs and dedicated people to help them stand on their own and work through their life's challenges, they can gain the confidence to improve themselves and return to their families and community as productive individuals.

BIA ROAD MAINTENANCE

We are again appreciative of subcommittee's recognition of the importance of transportation safety and economic development on Indian reservations by increasing fiscal year 2020 funding for the BIA Road Maintenance Program to \$35.8 million. Motor Vehicle deaths on Reservations is one of the leading causes of deaths in Indian Country and the poor condition of our roads is no doubt a leading factor in this.

FORT PECK RESERVATION RURAL SUPPLY SYSTEM

I want to express my appreciation to the subcommittee for its continued support of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System. The full funding that the subcommittee provided in fiscal year 2019 is critical to the continued operation of this vital project. I also fully endorse the funding request of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water Board, a newly chartered Tribal Agency now charged with the construction and operation and maintenance of this critical rural water system.

CONCLUSION

We thank the subcommittee for the opportunity to present testimony concerning the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service fiscal year 2020 budget.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES

On behalf of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA),¹ thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the fiscal year 2020 budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). AAPCA's State and local members are directly responsible for planning and implementing air quality regulations designed to protect public health, and believe that stable and adequate resources are core to fulfilling Clean Air Act obligations. As your subcommittee begins the fiscal year 2020 appropriations process, AAPCA members specifically request that State and local air quality management grants under the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program be funded at a level at least equal to fiscal year 2019.

The *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019* (H.J. Res. 31), signed into law on February 15 of this year, provided approximately \$3.605 billion in funding for the STAG program. Of this funding, \$1.077 billion was directed to categorical grants, including \$228.219 million for State and Local Air Quality Management Grants and \$87 million for the Diesel Emission Reductions Grant program, an increase of \$12 million from fiscal year 2018 enacted levels.²

The investment in these programs, which can make up to an average of 27 percent of environmental agency budgets,³ provide critical assistance to State and local air agencies, which maximize these funds through strict budgeting, creative programming, and best practices. Activities that are funded include a broad range of responsibilities essential to fulfilling Clean Air Act mandates, include planning, training, developing emissions inventories and rules, modeling, monitoring, permitting, inspections, and enforcing key elements of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), air toxics, and regional haze programs. By amplifying Federal grant resources, especially under Section 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act, agencies have achieved significant success in air quality.⁴

The President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2020 was released by the White House on March 11, 2019, and requests \$6.068 billion for U.S. EPA, or \$2.76 billion (31 percent) less than appropriated by Congress in fiscal year 2019.⁵ U.S. EPA's *Fiscal Year 2020 Justification of Appropriation Estimates for the Committee on Appropriations* details a proposed 35 percent reduction in funding for the STAG program,

¹ AAPCA is a national, non-profit, consensus-driven organization focused on assisting State and local air quality agencies and personnel with implementation and technical issues associated with the Federal Clean Air Act. AAPCA represents more than 45 State and local air agencies, and senior officials from 22 State environmental agencies sit on the AAPCA Board of Directors. AAPCA is housed in Lexington, Kentucky as an affiliate of The Council of State Governments. More information regarding AAPCA can be found at: www.cleanairact.org.

² H.J. Res. 31—*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019* (Public Law 116-6). Funding levels prior to rescissions.

³ <https://www.ecos.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/fiscal-year-18-EPA-Budget-Letter.pdf>.

⁴ AAPCA, *State Air Trends & Successes: The STATS Report*, April 22, 2019

⁵ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/budget-fy2020.pdf>.

including a nearly 45 percent reduction in categorical grants.⁶ The budget request for U.S. EPA also seeks a 30 percent decrease in funds for State and local air quality management grants, along with the proposed elimination of several air quality programs.

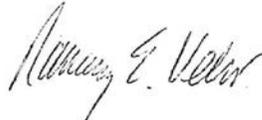
AAPCA recognizes that your subcommittee is in the early stages of the fiscal year 2020 appropriations process and appreciates that Congress did not adopt figures similar to those proposed by the administration for the past two fiscal years. In fact, since fiscal year 2009 the annual change in funding for State and local air quality management grants has been less than 3 percent, with an average of \$230 million provided each of those years.⁷ AAPCA members believe that these long-term, stable resources have had consequential impacts on air pollution control efforts that have been able to accommodate substantial national economic and population growth.⁸

In addition to funding State and local air quality management grants at a level at least equal to fiscal year 2019, AAPCA members would also like to highlight the importance of retaining funding for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) monitoring under Section 103 of the Clean Air Act, rather than through Section 105. Section 103 does not require State and local agencies to match funds, as is stipulated in Section 105. Should this funding authority be transitioned as proposed,⁹ agency budgets could be adversely impacted.

As your subcommittee develops the budget for U.S. EPA through the appropriations process, AAPCA members ask for continued stability and support of funding to carry out core Clean Air Act activities. Appropriately funded State and local air quality management grants underscore foundational components of cooperative Federalism, allowing air agencies to continue the important and essential work that has driven success in air quality and provide stability for entities that rely on their expertise.

Thank you for your attention to this testimony. AAPCA's State and local members look forward to working with your Subcommittee as Congress develops its priorities for fiscal year 2020 appropriations. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jason Sloan, Executive Director, at jsloan@csg.org.

Sincerely,



NANCY VEHR
Administrator, Air Quality Division,
Wyoming Department of Environmental
Quality
President, AAPCA

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Thank you for the opportunity to submit recommendations for fiscal year 2020 appropriations. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (AFWA) mission, which has not changed significantly from our founding in 1902, is to protect State agency authority to conserve and manage the fish and wildlife within their borders, and all 50 States (States) are members. We strive to facilitate cooperation between State and Federal agencies, conservation NGOs, and private landowners to conserve our Nation's fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

Thank you for the final fiscal year 2019 funding levels for fish, wildlife, and conservation programs, and we look forward to working with you as we enter another challenging budget cycle and fiscal environment to enact consistent funding levels with fiscal year 2019, and in some cases higher. Fish and wildlife conservation programs need funding today to preclude more costly Federal endeavors tomorrow. We will not succeed by trying to balance the budget on the backs of conservation programs. A continuation of this policy will prove only to be costlier in the long-term.

⁶ <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/cj>.

⁷ Figures assume dollars not adjusted for inflation.

⁸ U.S. EPA, *Our Nation's Air: Status and Trends Through 2017*, July 31, 2018. Section: Air Quality Improves as America Grows.

⁹ U.S. EPA, "fiscal year 2020 National Program Manager Guidance Monitoring Appendix," March 2019. DRAFT.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)

Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC).—Of priority is the National Fish Hatchery Operations line item that supports the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP), Fish Health Centers, Fish Technology Centers, Fish Hatcheries, Fish Passage, the National Fish Habitat Partnership, Wild Fish Health Survey, and Mass Marking program all of which meet needs of States, Tribes, and the Federal Government. The need for FDA-approved drugs for use in aquaculture and fisheries management is a national challenge, and AADAP provides the “cornerstone” of partnership efforts. AFWA recommends maintaining fiscal year 2019 funding levels for National Fish Hatchery Operations and programs, and we request \$11 million more for the mass marking initiative in the Pacific Northwest and the Great Lakes region, of which \$4.5 million is for the Great Lakes region. Funding for the deferred maintenance of the National Fish Hatchery System must be increased to avoid hatchery system failures.

AFWA is concerned that the FWS is not utilizing its fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 increased AADAP line item appropriations fully and in a timely manner, and current spending is not sufficient to meet the intent of the program or the needs of State and private partners. Also, failure of equipment or structure at one of the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) facilities could result in the loss of species that provide for recreational opportunities, unique genetic strains of imperiled species, and multiple year classes of species used for restoration efforts. There are about \$180 million in deferred maintenance needs for the NFHS, and of the previous appropriations directed to the FWS for deferred maintenance. We appreciate Congress addressing deferred maintenance needs for the NFHS and National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) in fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019, but not enough funds are being allocated to the NFHS.

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation.—We support funding the National Fish Habitat Action Plan at \$7.2 million to provide funding for coordination and restoration projects to the 20 approved fish habitat partnerships across the country with projects benefitting fish and fish habitat, anglers, and local communities. Fish Passage needs far outweigh the resources for species management and replacement of unsafe transportation infrastructure. We support funding Fish Passage at fiscal year 2018 levels and strongly support incorporating additional fish passage funding into Federal infrastructure plans. We request Congress restore funding for implementation of State Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) management plans to \$4.4 million, without compromising other ANS programs. Further, \$25 million is needed to implement the national Asian carp management and control plan in “Mississippi River and Tributaries”.

National Wildlife Refuge System.—We support funding NWRS Operations and Maintenance at no less than \$510 million in fiscal year 2020.

Habitat Conservation.—AFWA recommends maintain funding at fiscal year 2019 levels but requests no less than \$2,500,000 in additional funds to support the Partners in Fish and Wildlife Program for voluntary conservation of wildlife migration corridors and habitats to support implementation of Secretarial Order (SO) 3362.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants.—The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is the only Federal program available to States to leverage non-Federal funds to conserve over 12,000 State Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in State Wildlife Action Plans to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered. This investment in voluntary, proactive, and State-led conservation is needed now to address the list of declining species and to preclude an increase in Federal expenditures in the future under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Further, this program is not well suited to implement SO3362, and the Association supports funding those activities out of a different account. The Association recommends \$90 million for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in fiscal year 2020, same as the fiscal year 2010 enacted level. To truly address these growing challenges, we ask Congress to enact the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, which would provide States and their conservation partners with the dependable resources to do proactive, non-regulatory fish and wildlife conservation—a modern enhancement in how we finance the full array of diverse fish and wildlife conservation for current and future generations.

AFWA recommends no less than \$42 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund in fiscal year 2020.

Ecological Services (ES) & Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF).—The FWS needs additional resources in ES to address a growing workload and to increase FWS recovery efforts for federally listed species. Insufficient funds to meet growing demands has resulted in ongoing policy riders stemming from ESA tensions, some of which can be alleviated with increased funding. We support

increased funding for ES and recommend \$85 million for the CESCFC in fiscal year 2020. Further, we support sufficient funding for success of the Recovery Challenge Grant Program.

We recommend \$5 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and recommends maintaining fiscal year 2019 funding for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

Science Applications (SA).—SA provides a critical science coordination functions such as Species Status Assessments, regional science initiatives to address threats to wildlife and habitats across broad landscapes, integrated scientific efforts for elusive species like wolverine, and support on White-nose Syndrome. We recommend increasing fiscal year 2019 levels for SA activities by at least \$5 million to facilitate implementation of SO3362 and the wildlife migration corridor initiative and to fund important regional State-Federal partnerships and research efforts which are supported by the States.

Migratory Bird Conservation Program (MBCP).—The FWS and States share management jurisdiction for migratory birds, and migratory bird conservation represents one of the most successful State-Federal cooperative partnerships for over 80 years, but the program suffers from chronic under-funding of traditional functions and activities, making it particularly vulnerable to unanticipated problems and single points of failure. The FWS has gone to great lengths to protect the core functions, but more funding is needed to retain sufficient staff, fill key vacancies, and support science to inform decisionmaking. AFWA supports robust funding for the MBCP near fiscal year 2010 levels with a total budget of \$55 million, including full funding of the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures at \$19.9 million, allowing us to accomplish shared State and Federal responsibilities.

The Association recommends \$450 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in fiscal year 2020. We support robust funding for the State-side programs of the LWCF. Many rural communities rely on the State-side programs for playgrounds, sports courts, and other amenities.

The Association recommends \$76.5 million for the Forest Legacy Program in fiscal year 2020.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

Ecosystems.—AFWA strongly supports an increase of \$6.6 million in appropriations for the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program (CRU) to \$25 million. The CRU program provides critically important scientific and technical support for State and Federal fish and wildlife managers through collaborative scientific projects that address the Nation's most critical fish and wildlife management needs and inform policy decisions. This increase will enable USGS to fill the 39 current staff vacancies nationwide and establish new research units in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Nevada. AFWA supports the National Cooperators Coalition's testimony on CRUs. Further, we support the Ecosystems Science Centers and the National Wildlife Health Center, which provides critical scientific support and coordination on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and financial support to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia, which provides essential diagnostic and veterinary support services to 42 States. We request Congress increase funds to the Fisheries Program by no less than \$3.5 million to avoid fish center closures across the country, loss of critical research on the health of wild fisheries which is imperative to State and Federal managers, and the loss of jobs. It is also imperative that Congress provide an additional \$1 million to support implementation of a National Academies of Sciences study on the transmission of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer species, which will be managed in part by USGS Ecosystems. We support maintaining fiscal year 2019 funding at a minimum for the remaining BLIs in USGS Ecosystems.

Core Science Systems.—AFWA supports maintaining funding for USGS Core Science Systems including for the Integrated Taxonomic Information System, Biodiversity Information Serving Our Nation, and the USGS database of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Additional needs for wildlife habitat, migration corridors, and conservation—AFWA supports additional resources to BLM to manage wild horses and burros at appropriate management levels to reduce herd impacts on native fish and wildlife and competition for food, water, and resources. AFWA also supports increased funding for ongoing sage-grouse, sagebrush, wildfire, and invasive species activities. Many partnerships have been generated through BLM's sage-grouse efforts and actions through the DOI SO 3362. This will require additional funds for an array of

activities to address identified barriers to wildlife migrations, facilitate habitat connectivity, and implement actions to reduce wildlife-highway conflicts. AFWA supports an additional \$10 million for Wildlife Habitat Management, Wild Horse and Burros, Rangeland Management, Oil and Gas Management, and Land and Water Conservation Funds to meet these needs. We support a \$5 million increase for Rangeland Improvement and Bighorn sheep disease prevention, and \$10 million in additional funds for Wildlife Habitat Management (1170) are needed to address invasive species affecting habitat quantity and quality on big game winter range, summer range, and in migration corridors. This would supplement existing funding through the range management program that addresses management of invasive species. Finally, AFWA recommends the subcommittee reinstate BLM's Cost-Share Challenge Grant Program under Wildlife Habitat Management at \$10 million to leverage current momentum and partnerships to accomplish more wildlife habitat goals and mission objectives. Further, we do not support funds being redirected away from accounts intended to benefit fish, wildlife, and habitat to pay for the management of wild horses and burros.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE (USFS)

The President's fiscal year 2020 budget request recommends a merger of multiple BLIs to simplify time coding, increase efficiencies, and simplify accounting processes. However, AFWA is concerned that combining into one BLI Hazardous Fuels with Wildlife and Fisheries Management and others could result in funds being diverted away from fish and wildlife programs. We look forward to working with you on a solution that provides accountability and simplification.

Reinvesting in Habitat and Access.—Thank you for your work in the 115th Congress to end the problem of fire-borrowing. Now Congress must ensure that the funds made available by stabilizing the agency budget against rising firefighting costs are reinvested back into the programs and natural resources that have fiscally suffered from previous fire-borrowing activities. AFWA recommends increasing funding for forest health and management, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and access in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations.

Research and Development.—AFWA strongly supports maintaining funding for Research and Development for fisheries and wildlife program areas in fiscal year 2020.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Finally, we recommend maintaining fiscal year 2019 funding for all Geographic Programs, the National Estuaries Program, and the Beach/Fish Safety Program.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE DRINKING WATER ADMINISTRATORS

Summary of Request: The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) submits the following recommendations for fiscal year 2020 appropriations on behalf of the drinking water programs in the 50 States, 5 territories, District of Columbia, and Navajo Nation. ASDWA requests funding for two programs that ensure public health protection and that will result in enhancing economic stability and prosperity in American cities and towns. ASDWA requests \$125 million for the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) program and \$1.30 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) program. ASDWA also requests \$45 million for three drinking water grant programs to address lead in schools and communities.

OVERVIEW: THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND THE ECONOMY & THE ROLE OF STATE DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS

States need sustained Federal support to maintain public health protection and to support the needs of the water systems they oversee. State drinking water programs strive to meet the Nation's public health protection goals through two principal funding programs: the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Program and the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) Program. These two programs provide most of the funding for States to work with drinking water utilities to ensure that American citizens will have safe and adequate water supplies.

Vibrant and sustainable communities, their citizens, workforce, and businesses all depend on a safe and reliable supply of drinking water. Economies only grow and sustain themselves when they have safe and reliable water supplies. Over 90 percent of the population receives water used for bathing, cooking, and drinking from

a water system that is overseen by State drinking water program personnel. Water systems—as well as the cities, villages, schools, and businesses they support—rely on State drinking water programs to ensure they comply with all applicable Federal requirements.

In addition to the water we drink in our homes, water produced by water systems is also used to fight fires, transport wastewater, cook, wash clothes and dishes, as well as by businesses for manufacturing, food processing, and cooling. State drinking water programs must have adequate funding to protect public health and maintain the economic health of communities. Incidents such as the chemical spill in Charleston, West Virginia, algal toxins in the water for Toledo, Ohio and Salem, Oregon, and the lead leaching from service lines into the water supply in Flint, Michigan all serve as stark reminders of the critical nature of the work that State drinking water programs do—every day—and the reason why the funding for State drinking water programs must be not only be sustained but enhanced. More recently, the discovery of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination adds to the urgency of the need for funding.

STATE DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS: HOW THEY OPERATE, WHY SUPPORT IS NEEDED,
AND JUSTIFICATIONS FOR REQUESTED AMOUNTS

The Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Program

How the PWSS Program Operates: To meet the requirements of the SDWA, States have accepted primary enforcement responsibility for oversight of regulatory compliance and technical assistance efforts for more than 150,000 public water systems to ensure that potential health-based violations do not occur or are remedied in a timely manner. This involves 91 federally regulated contaminants and the complexity of regulations has increased in the past decade. Beyond the contaminants covered by Federal drinking water regulations, States are also implementing an array of proactive initiatives to protect public health from “source to tap.” These include source water assessments and protections, technical assistance for water treatment and distribution, and enhancement of overall water system performance. Recently, many States have begun to set drinking water standards for non-federally regulated contaminants, such as PFAS. State activities go well beyond simply ensuring compliance at the tap and these activities have to be efficient given continued resource and funding constraints.

Why Adequate Support is Needed: States will be unable to protect public health without increased Federal funding. Inadequate Federal support for State drinking water programs has several negative consequences. For example, consider the proposed Long-Term Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LT–LCR). As part of ASDWA’s comments on EPA’s Federalism Consultation, ASDWA conducted a Costs of States’ Transaction Study. The resulting data estimated that the costs of States’ staff time for the LT–LCR would be in the range of 72%–95 percent of current PWSS funding. Without additional funding, this important rule will be an unfunded mandate for States. Many States are facing difficult choices on what implementation activities to not do, such as providing less technical assistance to systems that need it. Others are looking to EPA for assistance, which is challenged by similar resource constraints and lack of “on the ground” expertise. States want to offer the flexibilities allowed under existing rules to local water systems, however, fewer State resources mean less opportunity to work individually with water systems to improve their systems and protect public health.

State drinking water programs are already hard pressed financially and the funding gap continues to grow. State-provided funding and fees to the water systems have historically compensated for insufficient Federal funding, but State budgets have been less able to bridge this funding gap in recent years. Insufficient Federal support for this critical program increases the likelihood of scenarios that put the public’s health at risk. The administration’s fiscal year 2020 request of \$67.9 million represents a 33 percent decrease for PWSS funding from the \$101.9 million that was appropriated for the PWSS program in fiscal year 2019. This level of funding has not been seen since 1995, nearly 25 years ago. This is an untenable situation, as the long-standing regulatory oversight remains constant and several non-regulatory actions such as addressing PFAS, algal toxins, and providing oversight for the development of water systems’ inventories of lead service lines have increased States’ workloads. States always step in to help solve problems and return systems to providing safe water as quickly as possible. Any reduction in Federal funding for State water programs, no matter how small, exacerbate the existing financial difficulties.

For the PWSS Program in Fiscal Year 2020, ASDWA Respectfully Requests \$125 Million: The number of regulations requiring State implementation and oversight

as well as performance expectations continue to grow while the Federal funding support has been essentially “flat-lined.” Inflation has further eroded these static funding levels. The requested funding amount is based on ASDWA’s December 2013 Resource Needs Report and begins to fill the above-described resource gap. The funding gap identified in the 2013 report is compounded by inflation and non-regulatory activities yields a total funding gap of 73.3 percent for State drinking water programs, as outlined in ASDWA’s 2018 Beyond Tight Budgets report. Increased PWSS funds are urgently needed for implementing existing drinking water rules, taking on new initiatives, and to account for the eroding effects of inflation. It is a small price to pay for protecting the health of the Nation.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program

How the DWSRF Program Operates: Drinking water in the U.S. is among the safest and most reliable in the world, but it is threatened by aging infrastructure. Through low interest loans provided by the DWSRF, States help water utilities overcome this threat. Since its inception, the DWSRF has touched millions of Americans through projects that enhance drinking water capabilities at water utilities. In the core DWSRF program, \$19.8 billion in cumulative Federal capitalization grants since 1997 have been leveraged by States into over \$38.2 billion in infrastructure loans to 14,500 communities, large and small, across the country. 26 percent of the cumulative DWSRF assistance, including negative interest loans and principal forgiveness, has been provided to disadvantaged communities. Such investments pay tremendous dividends—both in supporting our economy and in protecting our citizens’ health. For every \$1 invested in the DWSRF from the Federal Government, \$1.95 has gone to help communities. States have effectively and efficiently leveraged Federal dollars with State contributions.

An important feature of the DWSRF program is the State “set-aside” fund component, a key reason to fully fund this critical program. Set-asides function provide a process for States to work with water systems to maintain compliance and avoid violations. States may reserve up to 31 percent of these funds for a variety of critical tasks, such as increasing the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of water systems, providing training and certification for water system operators, and continuing wellhead and source water protection efforts. Set-asides are an essential source of funding for States’ core public health protection programs and these efforts work in tandem with infrastructure loans. However, as PWSS funds have remained stagnant, State programs have increasingly relied on the DWSRF set-asides to perform critical tasks and fill the gap between PWSS funds and the true funding it takes to run an effective State program. As States have been forced to utilize additional funding through set-asides, the DWSRF is losing out not only on those funds for that year, but the revolving aspect is lost as well. Increased funding for the PWSS program would help alleviate States using the full 31 percent of the set-asides, allowing for more infrastructure investment through the loan fund.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Investment is Well Below the Documented Need: EPA’s 6th Drinking Water Needs Survey concluded that \$427.6 billion of capital investment was needed for the next 20 years. The total translates to \$21.4 billion annually. Continued investment is needed for aging treatment plants, storage tanks, pumps, and distribution lines that carry water to our Nation’s homes, businesses, and schools. The DWSRF must continue to be a key part of the infrastructure solution. Unlike other water infrastructure funding programs, the DWSRF offers project subsidization for disadvantaged communities, funds for training and technical assistance, and is a fundamental funding mechanism for many medium and small utilities who would pay much higher interest rates if forced to use the bond market. The DWSRF plays a key role in keeping water rates affordable for many communities. Having access to low-interest loans allows water systems to pass on the savings to their rate payers while working towards full-cost pricing of their water service.

For the DWSRF Program in Fiscal Year 20, ASDWA Respectfully Requests \$1.30 Billion: Multiple years of flat DWSRF funding has only exacerbated the Nation’s infrastructure challenges. The DWSRF program was funded at \$1.30 billion for fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019, a \$300 million increase from previous years of steady funding, however, more is required. In America’s Water Infrastructure Act (Public Law 115–270), Congress authorized a plan to increase the funding of the DWSRF over time so that States can increase their staff and expand their expertise in conjunction with the increased funding. ASDWA fully supports the authorized increased funding. Physical water infrastructure improvements coupled with critical assistance initiatives funded by the DWSRF are essential to support public health protection as well as a sustainable economy. Funding the DWSRF at the recently

authorized \$1.30 billion level will better enable the DWSRF to meet the SDWA compliance and public health protection goals.

Three EPA Drinking Water Grant Programs to Address Lead in Schools and Communities

ASDWA Respectfully Requests \$45 Million for Three Drinking Water Grant Programs: In fiscal year 2019 appropriations, Congress funded the Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing Grant program at \$25 million and the Lead Reduction Grant program at \$15 million. ASDWA requests Congress continue the same appropriation for fiscal year 2020. In 2018, Public Law 115–270 authorized \$5 million for a new EPA grant program to provide assistance to local educational agencies for the replacement of drinking water fountains manufactured prior to 1988. ASDWA also requests that Congress appropriate the \$5 million authorization for this new grant in fiscal year 2020. Addressing lead contamination in schools’ water is a priority for State drinking water programs and funding these two additional grant programs will provide significant public health impacts, particularly for children.

Conclusion: ASDWA recommends Congress adequately fund State drinking water programs in the Federal fiscal year 2020 budget in order to protect public health and drinking water across the Nation. States are willing and committed partners, however, additional Federal financial assistance is needed to meet the ongoing and ever growing regulatory, infrastructure, and security needs. A strong State drinking water program supported by the Federal-State partnership will ensure that the quality of drinking water in this country will continue to improve so the public knows that a glass of water is safe to drink no matter where they live.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is pleased to submit the following testimony in support of funding for Endangered Species Recovery and the Recovery Challenge Grant program for fiscal year 2020. First, we thank the members of the subcommittee for increasing funding for endangered species through the Recovery account and working with our partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to create the Recovery Challenge Grant program in fiscal year 2018. We recognize the positive impact this funding has had on our recovery goals and encourage you to continue prioritizing these important functions.

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. AZA’s 233 accredited aquariums, nature centers, science centers and zoos (identified in the addendum to this letter) annually see more than 195 million visitors, collectively generate more than \$22 billion in annual economic activity, and support more than 208,000 jobs across the country. In 2017, AZA-accredited facilities spent \$220 million on field conservation in 128 countries benefiting 863 species and subspecies. Within those 863 species and subspecies, 281 are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

We manage numerous large scale conservation initiatives that involve many AZA committees, scientific advisory groups, the USFWS, and other conservation partnership organizations. Successful ongoing recovery and reintroduction initiatives with AZA members include the black-footed ferret, the American Burying Beetle, the Golden Lion Tamarin, the American red wolf, the Karner blue butterfly, multiple fresh water mussels species, and many others. The unique expertise and on the ground experience brought to the table by our members is unparalleled and has proved extremely valuable to species recovery.

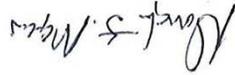
One of our member organizations doing exemplary work is San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG), which holds an extensive record as a longtime leader in endangered species recovery. Their Institute for Conservation Research houses the largest, multidisciplinary, zoo-based research team with more than 150 researchers and staff who are leading experts in their field. SDZG carries out carefully tailored species recovery plans in partnership with the USFWS, a dedicated coalition of domestic and international nonprofit organizations, academic research centers, and other zoos. To date, San Diego Zoo Global has bred more than 165 endangered species and reintroduced more than 40 endangered species into native habitats.

Moreover, San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG) plays a vital role in the highly successful public-private partnership to save the California condor which has seen the species go from a low of 22 birds to now reaching around 500. Together, the USFWS, State agencies, San Diego Zoo Global, The Peregrine Fund, Oregon Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, Ventana Wildlife Society, and several other nonprofit partners have provided critical genetic management, breeding, rearing, and release to recover the California condor.

And in 2015, the California condors reached a crucial milestone: for the first time in their recovery, more birds hatched and fledged than died in the wild. Although the AZA and SDZG, along with partners, are investing significant resources in the conservation and recovery of the California condor and other species, mental threats make condors reliant on costly management efforts including propagation, rearing, monitoring, regular trapping, testing, and treatment carried out by nonprofit partners. With limited funding for recovery efforts, it is more important than ever to invest Federal funding in programs that leverage the significant resources and expertise of outside partners that can help the USFWS accomplish its recovery objectives in the most effective and efficient way. The Recovery Challenge Grants program created in fiscal year 2018 recognizes this and has been an incredibly important step towards encouraging this valuable "Multi-Partner Recovery" model. With these goals in mind, as the Committee develops the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to continue to provide robust funding for endangered species recovery and prioritize longstanding recovery efforts in which existing resources and partner expertise can be most effectively leveraged. Specifically, we request an increase for Endangered Species Act Recovery actions generally to \$100 million and request an increase in funding for the Recovery Challenge Grant program to \$8 million. This funding will enable critical recovery partnerships to sustain their work so that we can realize the goal of full recovery for condors and other critically endangered species.

Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Douglas G. Myers
President/CEO
San Diego Zoo Global



Daniel M. Ashe
President and CEO
Association of Zoos & Aquarium

ADDENDUM

- San Diego Zoo Global, California
The Peregrine Fund, Idaho
Association of Zoos and Aquariums, USA
AZA Member Institutions:
Abilene Zoological Gardens, Texas
Adventure Aquarium, New Jersey
African Safari Wildlife Park, Ohio
Akron Zoological Park, Ohio
Alaska Sealife Center, Alaska
Albuquerque Biological Park, New Mexico
Alexandria Zoological Park, Louisiana
Aquarium of Niagara, New York
Aquarium of the Bay, California
Aquarium of the Pacific, California
Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Arizona
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Louisiana
Audubon Zoo, Louisiana
Bergen County Zoological Park, New Jersey
Binder Park Zoo, Michigan
Birch Aquarium at Scripps, California
Birmingham Zoo, Alabama
Blank Park Zoo, Iowa
Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Ohio
Brandywine Zoo, Delaware
Brevard Zoo, Florida
- Bronx Zoo/WCS, New York
Brookgreen Gardens, South Carolina
Buffalo Zoo, New York
Busch Gardens (Tampa), Florida
The Butterfly House, Missouri
Butterfly Pavilion, Colorado
Butnwood Park Zoo, Massachusetts
Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, California
Caldwell Zoo, Texas
California Science Center, California
Cameron Park Zoo, Texas
Cape May County Park Zoo, New Jersey
Capron Park Zoo, Massachusetts
Central Florida Zoological Park, Florida
Central Park Zoo, New York
Charles Paddock Zoo, California
Chahinkapa Zoo, North Dakota
Chattanooga Zoo at Warner Park, Tennessee
Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Park, Colorado
Chicago Zoological Society—Brookfield Zoo, Illinois
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Ohio
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Ohio
Clyde Peeling's Reptiland, Pennsylvania
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Ohio
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, Minnesota

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, Connecticut
 Cosley Zoo, Illinois
 CuriOdyssey, California
 Dakota Zoo, North Dakota
 Dallas World Aquarium, Texas
 Dallas Zoo, Texas
 David Traylor Zoo of Emporia, Kansas
 Denver Zoological Gardens, Colorado
 Detroit Zoological Park, Michigan
 Dickerson Park Zoo, Missouri
 Discovery Cove, Florida
 Disney's Animal Kingdom, Florida
 El Paso Zoo, Texas
 Ellen Trout Zoo, Texas
 Elmwood Park Zoo, Pennsylvania
 Erie Zoo, Pennsylvania
 Florida Aquarium, The, Florida
 Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Indiana
 Fort Worth Zoo, Texas
 Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Texas
 Franklin Park Zoo, Massachusetts
 Fresno Chaffee Zoo, California
 Georgia Aquarium, Georgia
 Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas
 Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum
 of Natural History, South Dakota
 Greensboro Science Center, North
 Carolina
 Greenville Zoo, South Carolina
 Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center,
 Montana
 Happy Hollow Zoo, California
 Henry Vilas Zoo, Wisconsin
 Houston Zoo, Inc. Texas
 Hutchinson Zoo, Kansas
 Idaho Falls Zoo at Tautphaus Park,
 Idaho
 Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc.,
 Indiana
 International Crane Foundation,
 Wisconsin
 Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Florida
 Jenkinson's Aquarium, New Jersey
 John Ball Zoological Gardens, Michigan
 John G. Shedd Aquarium, Illinois
 Kansas City Zoo, Missouri
 Lake Superior Zoo, Minnesota
 Landry's Downtown Aquarium—Denver,
 Colorado
 Landry's Houston Aquarium, Inc., Texas
 Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park &
 Wildlife Safari, Nebraska
 Lee Richardson Zoo, Kansas
 Lehigh Valley Zoo, Pennsylvania
 Lincoln Children's Zoo, Nebraska
 Lincoln Park Zoological Gardens, Illinois
 Lion Country Safari, Florida
 Little Rock Zoological Gardens, Arkansas
 Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State
 Park, New Mexico
 The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens,
 California
 Los Angeles Zoo, California
 Louisville Zoological Garden, Kentucky
 Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Inc.,
 Connecticut
 Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Maryland
 Memphis Zoological Garden and
 Aquarium, Tennessee
 Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden,
 Inc., Indiana
 Miller Park Zoo, Illinois
 Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens,
 Wisconsin
 Minnesota Zoological Garden, Minnesota
 Monterey Bay Aquarium, California
 Moody Gardens Rainforest and
 Aquarium, Texas
 Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium,
 Florida
 Museum of Life and Science, North
 Carolina
 Museum of Science, Massachusetts
 Mystic Aquarium, Connecticut
 Naples Zoo, Florida
 Nashville Zoo, Tennessee
 National Aquarium, Maryland
 National Aviary, Pennsylvania
 National Mississippi River Museum &
 Aquarium, Iowa
 New England Aquarium, Massachusetts
 New York Aquarium, New York
 Newport Aquarium, Kentucky
 North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher,
 North Carolina
 North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll
 Shores, North Carolina
 North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke
 Island, North Carolina
 North Carolina Zoological Park, North
 Carolina
 Northeastern Wisconsin (NEW) Zoo,
 Wisconsin
 Northwest Trek Wildlife Park,
 Washington
 Oakland Zoo, California
 OdySea Aquarium, Arizona
 Oglebay's Good Zoo, West Virginia
 Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical
 Garden, Oklahoma
 Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium,
 Nebraska
 Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon
 Oregon Zoo, Oregon
 Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park, Florida
 Peoria Zoo, Illinois
 Philadelphia Zoo, Pennsylvania
 Phoenix Zoo, The, Arizona
 Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium,
 Washington
 Potawatomi Zoo, Indiana
 Potter Park Zoological Gardens,
 Michigan
 Prospect Park Zoo, New York
 Pueblo Zoo, Colorado
 Queens Zoo, New York
 Racine Zoological Gardens, Wisconsin
 Red River Zoo, North Dakota
 Reid Park Zoo, Arizona
 Ripley's Aquarium at Myrtle Beach,
 South Carolina
 Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies,
 Tennessee

Riverbanks Zoo and Garden, South Carolina	Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay, Nevada
Riverside Discovery Center, Nebraska	Smithsonian National Zoological Park, District of Columbia
Roger Williams Park Zoo, Rhode Island	South Carolina Aquarium, South Carolina
Rolling Hills Zoo, Kansas	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, New Hampshire
Roosevelt Park Zoo, North Dakota	St. Augustine Alligator Farm, Florida
Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park, New York	Staten Island Zoo, New York
Sacramento Zoo, California	Steinhart Aquarium, California
Safari West, California	Stone Zoo, Massachusetts
Saginaw Children's Zoo, Michigan	Sunset Zoological Park, Kansas
Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri	Tennessee Aquarium, Tennessee
Salisbury Zoological Park, Maryland	Texas State Aquarium, Texas
San Antonio Zoological Society, Texas	Toledo Zoological Gardens, Ohio
San Diego Zoo, California	Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center, Kansas
San Diego Zoo Safari Park, California	Tracy Aviary, Utah
San Francisco Zoological Gardens, California	Trevor Zoo, New York
Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens, California	Tulsa Zoo, Oklahoma
Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, Florida	Turtle Back Zoo, New Jersey
Scovill Zoo, Illinois	Utah's Hogle Zoo, Utah
SEA LIFE Arizona Aquarium, Arizona	Utica Zoo, New York
SEA LIFE Carlsbad Aquarium, California	Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, Virginia
SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Aquarium, North Carolina	Virginia Living Museum, Virginia
SEA LIFE Grapevine Aquarium, Texas	Virginia Zoological Park, Virginia
SEA LIFE Kansas City Aquarium, Missouri	Western North Carolina Nature Center, North Carolina
SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium, Michigan	Wildlife Safari, Oregon
SEA LIFE Orlando Aquarium, Florida	Wilds, The, Ohio
Seas, The, Florida	Woodland Park Zoo, Washington
Seattle Aquarium, Washington	Zoo Atlanta, Georgia
SeaWorld Orlando, Florida	Zoo Boise, Idaho
SeaWorld San Antonio, Texas	Zoo Knoxville, Tennessee
SeaWorld San Diego, California	Zoo Miami, Florida
Sedgwick County Zoo, Kansas	ZOOAMERICA NA Wildlife Park, Pennsylvania
Seneca Park Zoo, New York	ZooTampa at Lowry Park, Florida
Sequoia Park Zoo, California	

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION

Aanii (Hello)! My name is Bryan Newland, and I am the President of the Bay Mills Indian Community, which is an Ojibwe Tribe located on Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I am appearing before the subcommittee in my capacity as a Member of the Board for the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority ("CORA").

CORA is a consortium of five federally recognized Tribes in Michigan that are parties to the 1836 Treaty of Washington with the United States: Bay Mills Indian Community, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

PURPOSE

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony to the subcommittee to testify on Natural Resources on the importance of Federal funding to support the exercise of reserved treaty rights, as well as the management of natural resources protected through treaties between the United States and Indian Tribes and to urge your continued support for funding the *Rights Protection Implementation* (RPI) program at the Department of the Interior. RPI funds are necessary to ensure that Tribes are able to exercise their judicially-recognized reserved treaty rights in a meaningful

way. Tribes use these funds to monitor and protect natural resources, enforce Tribal, State, and Federal laws, and to protect their reserved treaty rights.

In fiscal year 2019, Congress appropriated \$6,319,467 for RPI funding, which is allocated for the CORA Tribes. We are urging Congress to maintain this funding in fiscal year 2020, and to increase that amount by \$40,000.

BACKGROUND

In 1836, the Ojibwe (Chippewa) and Odawa (Ottawa) Tribes (the “CORA Tribes”) in Michigan negotiated a treaty with the United States to cede much of the lands that were used to establish the State of Michigan in 1837. Those ceded lands comprise more than 40 percent (40 percent) of what is now the State of Michigan. In exchange for this valuable cession of land, the CORA Tribes reserved the right to hunt and fish throughout the ceded territory, including the adjoining waters in Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior.

The citizens of the CORA Tribes continued to exercise their treaty rights following the ratification of the 1836 Treaty of Washington. In the 1950’s and 1960’s, the State of Michigan began efforts to regulate hunting and fishing activities by our Tribal members, and to curtail the rights our Tribes reserved in the Treaty of 1836. Many Tribal members, including Bay Mills Indian Community member Albert “Big Abe” LeBlanc, resisted the State’s efforts to erode our reserved treaty rights by continuing to catch fish with gill nets and without State licenses.

In 1971, the State of Michigan issued a citation to Big Abe LeBlanc for fishing with gill nets, and prosecuted him under Michigan’s criminal laws. Bay Mills Indian Community defended LeBlanc against the charges by arguing that the rights reserved by the 1836 Treaty Tribes continued to exist, and that they superseded State hunting and fishing regulations under the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution. The case of *People of Michigan v. LeBlanc* was ultimately resolved by the Michigan Supreme Court in 1976, which held that the fishing rights expressly reserved in the 1836 Treaty remained in effect.

As a result of the State of Michigan’s prosecution of Big Abe LeBlanc, in 1973 the United States filed a lawsuit against the State of Michigan on behalf of the 1836 Treaty Tribes to uphold and enforce the fishing rights reserved in the 1836 Treaty. That case was titled *United States v. Michigan*. In 1979, Judge Fox of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan entered an opinion and order upholding the Tribes’ fishing rights in what is now known as “the Fox Decision.”

Following Judge Fox’s famous decision, the parties to *United States v. Michigan*—the Federal Government, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the State of Michigan—began court-supervised negotiations regarding how the Tribes would exercise and regulate our treaty rights. In 1985, the parties reached a tentative agreement to establish joint fishery management of the fishery with the State of Michigan, and to allocate harvest opportunities among Tribal and State-licensed fishers. The U.S. District Court entered an order putting that agreement into effect.

The 1985 Consent Judgment remained in effect until August 2000. At that time, the Federal Government, the 1836 Treaty Tribes, and the State of Michigan negotiated a successor agreement to regulate Tribal fishing activities on the Great Lakes. That agreement expires in August 2020, and the parties are preparing to negotiate another agreement to take its place.

In 2007, the United States, the CORA Tribes, and the State of Michigan finalized a separate agreement to implement the Tribes’ reserved treaty rights on the “inland” portion of the territory ceded by the 1836 Treaty. That agreement was also entered as a consent decree by the U.S. District Court in the *United States v. Michigan* case as a means to regulate Tribal hunting, fishing, and gathering activities under the 1836 Treaty, to establish joint management protocols with the State of Michigan, and to allocate harvest opportunity for certain species.

From 1985 until today, the Federal Government, the CORA Tribes, and the State of Michigan have worked together to manage the commercial fishery in the upper Great Lakes. Since 2007, we have also worked together to manage game and other natural resources across the ceded territory. While we have had disagreements over the years, this framework has allowed us to cooperate to ensure the protection of natural resources and the continued vitality of Tribal treaty rights. This cooperative framework is now an accepted part of the fabric of natural resource protection and conservation law enforcement across much of the State of Michigan.

Funds appropriated to the *Rights Protection Implementation* program are used to implement this cooperative framework.

It is important to note that this framework is mandated by order of the U.S. District Court in the *United States v. Michigan* litigation; and, that the Federal Government negotiated the terms of the cooperative resource management framework on behalf of, and with, the 1836 Treaty Tribes.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUEST: RIGHTS PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION

The CORA Tribes receive funding through the “Treaty Fisheries” line item in the *Rights Protection Implementation* program. Those funds are used to support the following activities:

- Establishment of conservation-based fishing regulations;
- Biological support services to monitor the fishery;
- Resource protection and enhancement programs;
- Conservation law enforcement activities and Tribal courts for violation of fishing regulations; and,
- Intertribal coordination of activities and policies with Federal and State agencies.

The CORA Tribes also receive RPI funding to implement the 2007 Consent decree relating to the exercise of “inland” treaty rights. Those funds support the following activities:

- Establishment of conservation-based hunting, fishing, and gathering regulations;
- Biological support services to monitor wildlife, plant-life, and habitat;
- Resource protection and enhancement programs;
- Invasive species monitoring and controls;
- Conservation law enforcement activities and Tribal courts for violation of hunting, fishing, and gathering regulations; and,
- Intertribal coordination of activities and policies with Federal and State agencies.

CORA does not support any budget request for *Rights Protection Implementation* in the fiscal year 2020 which is less than the sum appropriated for fiscal year 2019. Any cut in funding levels would leave inadequate funding to ensure that we are able to successfully implement the terms of the 2000 and 2007 Consent Decrees in *United States v. Michigan*. Less funding will require the CORA Tribes to scale back our conservation, monitoring, and enforcement activities. This will result in staff layoffs, increased risk of conflict between Tribes and other communities over resources, and a reduction in protection of the fishery, wildlife, and habitat throughout the ceded territory.

CORA is urging Congress to maintain for *Rights Protection Implementation* in the fiscal year 2020 budget the same amount as provided for in fiscal year 2019 and to increase the CORA Tribes share to \$6,359,467. We believe that this funding is adequate to allow us to successfully work with Federal and State agencies to implement the terms of the 2000 and 2007 Consent Decrees.

CORA is also requesting that Congress appropriate \$2.5 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for “Litigation Support” for Tribal treaty rights litigation. While “Litigation Support” funds are not used to directly implement Tribal treaty rights, they are used by Tribes—like the CORA Tribes—to negotiate consent decrees that ensure cooperative resource management and avoid litigation between the United States and State governments over Tribal treaty rights. The current Great Lakes Consent Decree expires in August 2020, and the Tribes require additional funds to prepare for both negotiation and possible litigation to create a new allocation/management regime.

The Department of the Interior does not presently have adequate “Litigation Support” funds to ensure that the CORA Tribes are able to gather data, hire experts, and retain legal counsel to negotiate a new consent decree in the *United States v. Michigan* litigation.

The Department of the Interior has provided Litigation Support funding to the CORA Tribes throughout the 45 year history of the *United States v. Michigan* case to litigate important issues and negotiate consent decrees. But, in the past year, the Department provided insufficient funds to enable the Tribes to prepare to negotiate a new Consent Decree in *United States v. Michigan*. This is a dramatic departure from the Department’s prior support to the CORA Tribes throughout this litigation; and, we are deeply concerned that the Department will not provide the resources necessary to negotiate a new consent decree. This will increase the odds of litigation over our treaty rights, and jeopardize our cooperative management framework.

CORA estimates a need for \$500,000 in fiscal year 2019 to negotiate a new consent decree (or, to prepare to litigate the scope of our treaty rights beyond 2020).

This funding will ensure that the CORA Tribes can participate in negotiations for a successor agreement to the 2000 Consent Decree.

CONCLUSION

The *Rights Protection Implementation* Program is necessary to ensure that the United States continues to meet its obligations under treaties with Tribes across the country. These funds are also necessary to ensure that Tribes can meet our obligations under Federal Court orders applicable to our reserved treaty rights. As Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black famously proclaimed: “Great nations, like great men, keep their word.”

For these reasons, the CORA Tribes respectfully request your support for fiscal year 2020 RPI funding at its current level, with \$6,359,467 allocated for the CORA Tribes. Miigwetch (thank you) for the opportunity to present our views. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION

The Requests of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) for the fiscal year 2020 Indian Health Service appropriations and our comments are as follows:

- Clinic Leases*.—Direct the Indian Health Service (IHS) to fully fund Village Built Clinic (VBC) and tribally leased clinics under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA).
- CSC Funding*.—Continue to fund Contract Support Costs (CSC) at 100 percent and provide funding on a permanent and mandatory basis.
- Advance Appropriations/Sequestration*.—Provide advance appropriations for the IHS and shield its budget from sequestration or rescissions.
- Increase IHS behavioral healthcare funding (Mental Health/Substance Abuse)*
- Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)*.—Multi-year authorization and increased mandatory funding.
- Land Transfer Legislation*.—Enactment of S. 224/H.R. 933, to facilitate transfer of a parcel of land from IHS to BBAHC on which our dental clinic is located.

The Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation was created in 1973 to provide healthcare services to Alaska Natives of Southwest Alaska. We began operating and managing the Kakanak Hospital and the Bristol Bay Service Unit for the IHS in 1980, and were the first tribal organization to do so under the ISDEAA. BBAHC is a co-signer to the Alaska Tribal Health Compact with the IHS under the ISDEAA and is now responsible for providing and promoting healthcare to the people of 28 Alaska Native Villages.

We have made significant progress but now deal with modern-day health problems. Today, rather than TB and influenza epidemics, we struggle with diseases of a modern society that include chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease and behavioral and mental health needs. The life expectancy of our people has increased from 47 years of age in 1952 to 69.4 in 1998, still below that of U.S. residents and other Alaskans.

Village Built Clinics and Section 105(l) Leasing.—We thank Congress for appropriating a \$36 million increase over base funding for Tribal health clinic leases in the Fiscal Year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Acts. And we thank the Alaska delegation, and in particular Senator Murkowski, for her leadership on this issue, including her line of questioning of the IHS this issue in your May 1, 2019 hearing. The \$25 million increase over fiscal year 2018 was in recognition of IHS’s responsibility as confirmed by the 2016 Federal court decision in *Maniilaq v. Burwell*, which held that section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides an entitlement to full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. BBAHC utilizes both Village-Built and Section 105(l) leasing. Small chronically underfunded remote clinics serve as an essential health lifeline in rural Alaskan villages where there is no road system to connect villages to urban centers. As noted above, BBAHC serves 28 remote villages in southwest Alaska.

Congress has asked IHS to submit a report on the budget impact of meeting its responsibility under *Maniilaq v. Burwell*. We oppose any appropriations rider, such as those included in the administration’s budget proposals for fiscal years 2018 and 2019, which would allow IHS to avoid its responsibility to compensate Tribes fully for these costs. We ask that Congress again decline to include such a provision in the fiscal year 2020 IHS appropriation. In addition, we urge that any infrastructure proposal that may move forward include assistance for village built and tribally leased clinics, many of which are in poor condition and/or need to be replaced.

Contract Support Costs (CSC).—BBAHC thanks the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees for their leadership in committing to fully fund IHS and BIA contract support costs and for finding a way to do it through providing “such sums as may be necessary” and making it a separate account in the IHS and BIA budgets. For many years, both the IHS and BIA vastly underpaid the contract support costs owed to Tribal organizations, and this transformation makes an enormous difference in helping to ensure that Tribes and Tribal organizations can successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities under the ISDEAA. The shift is also likely to significantly improve the Federal-Tribal government-to-government relationship. We ask that you again not include any proposed proviso that would effectively deny CSC carryover authority granted by ISDEAA as you did in fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The House Committee Report language from fiscal year 2018 encouraging IHS to pay CSC on their grant programs was welcome, and we will continue to advocate to IHS that they take this action.

BBAHC will continue to advocate for our long-term goal of ensuring that full CSC appropriations are made permanent and mandatory. Under the ISDEAA, the full payment of CSC is not discretionary; it is a legal obligation affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States. Funding of CSC on a discretionary basis has in the recent past placed the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, in their own words, in the “untenable position of appropriating discretionary funds for the payment of any legally obligated contract support costs.” BBAHC is committed to working with the appropriate Congressional committees to determine how best to achieve that goal.

Advance Appropriations for IHS.—We are heartened by the introduction of legislation to provide advance appropriations for the IHS. Representative Young’s bill, H.R. 1135, would provide advance appropriations for the IHS Services and Facilities accounts. Other legislation on this topic is S. 229, introduced by Senator Udall and companion legislation, H.R. 1128, introduced by Representative McCollum. Those bills would provide advance appropriations to the IHS Services and Contract Support Costs accounts and the BIA/BIE Operation of Indian Programs, Contract Support Costs and the Indian Guaranteed Loan Program.

Sequestration.—BBAHC respectfully requests the subcommittee’s support in amending the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act to exempt Indian programs, such as the IHS and BIA budgets, from across-the-board sequestration of funds. We supported Congress fully exempting Veterans Health Administration programs from sequestration. However, Indian healthcare, as a Federal trust responsibility, should be afforded equal treatment. A number of Members of this subcommittee and other members of Congress have publicly stated that it was an oversight that the Indian budgets were not included in the exempt category when the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act was enacted.

Behavioral Health.—We have testified before Congress previously regarding the hardships in providing for our communities’ behavioral and mental health needs, particularly with regard to our youth. As you know, there is an epidemic of suicide among Alaska Natives, especially teens. BBAHC has well-qualified professional staff who service approximately 6,500 people in our region. But our social workers, counsellors and behavioral health aides have a theoretical caseload of 300 persons each. The ratio of mental health clinicians to clients is 1 to 1,300. Our 14-bed residential youth facility for substance abuse (Jake’s Place) has an Alcohol and Drug Safety program funded by the State of Alaska but it is primarily an education program, not a treatment program, and much of the education is done remotely, via the Internet.

We appreciate the fiscal year 2019 increases for IHS Alcohol and Substance Abuse (\$17.7 million) and Mental Health (\$5.4 million) programs while urging additional increases under the IHS Mental health program for behavioral health integration and the Zero Suicide Initiative and under the Alcohol and Substance Abuse account for Generation Indigenous, the pilot youth project, and detoxification. Of the fiscal year 2019 increase in the Substance Abuse account, \$10 million is for a Special Behavioral Health Pilot Program modeled after the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and we thank the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees for your work on this forward-looking proposal.

We acknowledge the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) fiscal year 2019 Tribal behavioral health grants (\$20 million substance abuse; \$20 million mental health) but the need in Indian Country is so great.

Opioid Epidemic.—Indian Country, which has been severely affected by the opioid abuse epidemic, was initially left out of the funding under the State Opioid Response grants. Now, however, Tribes/Tribal organizations received \$50 million in fiscal year 2018 and will receive the same amount of funding in fiscal year 2019 from

that program. Per Tribal recommendations, the funding is being distributed via formula. The recently enacted opioid legislation, the SUPPORT Act signed into law on October 24, 2018, includes a Tribal funding allocation and we applaud that. Still, recommendations from around the Nation urge that significantly more resources are needed to address this crisis.

Special Diabetes Program for Indians.—The SDPI authorization is set to expire on September 30, 2019, and while we expect Congress will extend it in some manner, we hope it will not be another short-term extension. For the stability of the program we and other Tribes and Tribal organizations advocate for a multi-year authorization and an increase in its mandatory funding. SDPI, currently funded at \$150 million annually, has not had an increase since fiscal year 2004. Pending legislation would extend the program for 5 years at \$150 million per year, but we urge that it be provided an overdue increase to at least \$200 million per year to help account for medical inflation and expansion.

Land Transfer Legislation.—BBAHC also asks for your support in enacting legislation that would direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to convey a 1.474-acre parcel of land, via warranty deed, to BBAHC for the land on which our new state-of-the-art dental clinic is located. The legislation is HR 933, introduced on January 30, 2019 by Congressman Young, and S. 224, introduced on February 1, 2017 by Senators Murkowski and Sullivan. On January 29, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs approved S. 224.

The House and Senate bills are identical, and there is no reason they should not pass under unanimous consent or under suspension of the rules. The property transfer authorized by these bills would enable the land transfer from IHS to BBAHC via warranty deed, and would supersede any existing quitclaim deed. It would allow the BBAHC to have greater control over the land and more opportunities for financing as well as to remove any IHS reversionary interests.

Our dental facility opened in September 2016, on the grounds of the Kakanak Hospital Compound. The new clinic replaced a dilapidated clinic and is providing expanded dental care to our region, where there are very few public dental clinics. Our service population is 6,500. Part of the funding for the dental facility came from BBAHC reinvesting its share of a CSC settlement with IHS that was paid to compensate for years of contract underpayments to the Tribal health organization. The clinic is the first permanent building owned by BBAHC on the hospital campus and there is a lot of pride and self-determination that flows from this tribally-owned dental building.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to the advancement of Native American people and thank you for your consideration of the concerns and requests of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation.

[This statement was submitted by Robert J. Clark, President/CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I am writing to express support for fiscal year 2020 Federal investment in initiatives that help businesses manage environmental issues, foster transparency and best practices in emissions and water management, and recognize leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability.

As Congress moves forward with appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2020, the Council urges Congress to continue robust funding for the EPA offices of Air and Radiation, Enforcement Division, and Transportation and Air Quality related to international climate change programs, climate change research and partnership programs, the Renewable Fuel Standard, water management, and the ENERGY STAR program.

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors. It includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power, manufacturers, commercial end users and service providers in energy and environmental markets. Founded in 1992, the coalition's diverse business membership is united around the continued revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future in America.

As a business group working to advance clean energy policies over the last 27 years, BCSE has seen first-hand the importance of the Federal role EPA fills in sharing information about new technologies and practices to help speed adoption and allow consumers to make more informed decisions.

The Federal Government's role in these efforts is critical to provide transparent, standardized and independent data and expertise that cannot be replicated by private sector or non-governmental organizations with the same credibility.

MAINTAINING AMERICA'S STATUS AS AN ENERGY LEADER

Through regulatory and voluntary initiatives, EPA helps foster the U.S. leadership role in clean energy and transportation technologies globally. Many EPA programs, including the CHP Partnership, Green Power Partnership, Natural Gas Star, Methane Challenge, AgStar, Center for Corporate Climate Leadership, SmartWay Transport Partnership, and others, embody longstanding public-private endeavors that benefit American businesses and help them continue to compete on a global scale.

For example, the Natural Gas Star program brings companies together to voluntarily conduct projects to reduce methane emissions and share lessons learned on innovative, cost-effective best practices. The new Methane Challenge program (with-in Natural Gas STAR) provides a credible platform for partner companies to transparently report the voluntary methane reduction measures they are implementing company-wide and to be publicly recognized as leaders in methane reduction. Both programs help companies share technology innovations that modernize and improve the efficiency of the country's energy delivery system.

EPA initiatives provide market transparency, encourage voluntary action, and identify companies that are leaders in businesses and in environmental protection. Additionally, EPA's laboratories lead the world in capabilities that make the United States preeminent in research and analysis which supports private sector capabilities to enhance economic growth and emissions reductions simultaneously.

EPA PROGRAMS PROVIDE VALUE TO U.S. TAXPAYERS

Federal investments in programs implemented by the EPA have multiple benefits including reducing air pollution, saving consumers money, and achieving energy independence and security. Additionally, clean energy supported over 3 million jobs in the United States in 2016, due in part to EPA and other government programs that encourage the use of clean energy and energy efficiency.¹

Programs like ENERGYSTAR have proven track records of success and are extremely cost-effective. Through brand recognition, information and positive publicity, the ENERGY STAR program has provided the catalyst for many consumers, homeowners, businesses, and State and local governments to invest in energy efficiency. The Council opposes moving to a fee-based funding model for ENERGYSTAR, which would erode the integrity and effectiveness of the program.

Under the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, EPA has run the Renewable Fuel Standard, which has enabled the development of the biomass and biogas industry to help meet lower carbon energy needs. The Council encourages EPA to fund the registration of projects producing RINs from biogas derived fuels, including renewable electricity. This pathway would open up the potential for electricity derived from biogas, renewable biomass and solid forms of biomass used as transportation fuel and could significantly contribute to the program.

EPA PROGRAMS PROVIDE CRITICAL SUPPORT TO STATES, TRIBES, AND LOCALITIES

Many State, local, and Tribal efforts to improve the environment are dependent on the information and resources provided by Federal programs. The EPA provides valuable technical assistance, analytical tools, and outreach support to State, local, and Tribal governments that enable the States to administer robust clean energy and energy efficiency programs. Investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental policies and programs is an important way for State and local governments to improve air quality and to improve people's health, and to save money. For example, EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program offers expertise about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change policies and programs to interested State, local, and Tribal governments. By providing these resources, EPA removes barriers that would otherwise prohibit action at the local level due to resource constraints or lack of information on best practices.

¹2018 U.S. Energy and Employment Report, available at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a98cf80ec4eb7c5cd928c61/t/5c7f3708fa0d6036d7120d8f/1551849054549/USEER+2019+US+Energy+Employment+Report.pdf>.

THE FEDERAL ROLE FOR AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS

EPA can address barriers to the adoption of emissions-reducing technologies—such as a lack of reliable information, inconsistent regulatory environments, and workforce training gaps—through activities that include providing objective information, creating networks between the public and private sector and providing technical assistance. These efforts can help energy consumers in all sectors. Through its programs on renewable energy, natural gas, combined heat and power and energy efficiency, EPA encourages the use of clean, efficient, and market-ready technologies that can lower costs and improve resilience in addition to lowering emissions.

EPA also has an important role to play as an international leader in climate science and emission reduction frameworks. EPA is engaged in a variety of international activities to advance climate change science, monitor our environment, and promote activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. EPA establishes partnerships, provides leadership, and shares technical expertise to support these activities.

The Council wishes to work with Members of the Appropriations Committee to maximize the value of limited Federal dollars and we request the opportunity to meet with your staff to further discuss the Council's position and support for EPA programs. For questions please contact Carolyn Sloan on the BCSE's staff at csloan@bcse.org.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CENTER FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

We are contacting you in support of funding for programs at the USDA Forest Service that are essential for protecting the resilience of the Nation's forests in the face of invasive pests. Specifically, we ask that the subcommittee support funding of the State and Private Forestry Forest Health Management program at a level of \$104 million; and Research and Development at \$310 million.

About one-third of America's land area supports forests or woodlands. These forests provide many benefits, including wood and non-wood forest products, jobs for rural economies, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, clean water and air, and aesthetic enjoyment. While these benefits are well understood for rural and wildland forests, the contributions of urban forests are sometimes not recognized. Urban forests moderate temperatures and winds, thus reducing energy expenditures and related emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. They moderate stormwater runoff and related management costs. Urban trees while they filter air and water pollutants. And they improve the health and wellbeing of city residents.

FOREST HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The Cooperative Forest Health Management program supports partners' efforts to prevent, monitor, suppress, and eradicate insects, diseases, and invasive plants through technical and financial assistance to State forestry agencies who deal directly with private forest owners. Our request for \$104 million for Forest Health Management program would increase funds for work on non-Federal cooperative lands from \$41 to \$48 million. We ask for this increase for two reasons. First, over 60 percent of America's forests are owned by States or private entities. Forest-based rural economies and the thousands of jobs these non-Federal forests support depend on the assistance received from USDA Forest Service experts.

Second, non-native pests such as the emerald ash borer, spotted lanternfly, polyphagous and Kuroshio shot hole borer, and laurel wilt disease are usually first introduced in cities or suburbs. This occurs because the imports which transport these pests are usually destined for population centers. As a result, the newly arrived pests cause enormous damage to urban forests.

However, the pests don't stay in the cities. Instead, they proliferate and spread to forests in rural and wildland areas. This movement is often facilitated by people moving firewood or plants (such as through the nursery trade) or even household goods. In this way, the pests introduced to our cities threaten forests across the continent—including in National forests. For example, the emerald ash borer is killing trees in many National forests across the Northeast and Midwest; the polyphagous and Kuroshio shot hole borers are now killing trees in the Cleveland National Forest. All were first discovered in urban forests.

To be most effective, the USDA Forest Health Management program must address pests where they are first found—in urban or semi-rural forests—before they spread to National forests.

Our request for \$48 million for Cooperative Lands seeks to restore some of the capacity lost in past budget reductions. Between fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2018, spending to combat 11 specified non-native insects and pathogens fell by

about 50 percent. Furthermore, the Forest Service' responsibilities to combat these pests is likely to increase because the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has proposed to terminate the program under which it regulates movement of firewood, nursery stock, and other items which spread the emerald ash borer. Such a termination will greatly increase the risk that the emerald ash borer will spread to un-infested Western States. The step will also exacerbate the risk of spreading many other wood-boring pests that are also transported in firewood.

Another example of the value of the Cooperative Lands program is the pathogen that causes sudden oak death (SOD). Since 2001, this program has provided an average of \$1.9 million per year to the Oregon Department of Forestry as well as to National forests and Bureau of Land Management to treat SOD in Curry County, Oregon. An economic analysis concluded that continuing this cooperative containment program is essential to protecting economic, cultural, aesthetic, and ecological values of southwest Oregon. Continuing the slow-the-spread program at approximately the same level over the next 20 years—at a cost of \$30 million—could prevent the loss of 1,200 jobs by 2028 and \$57.9 million in wages from 2028.

Of course, a variety of non-native and native pests are threatening National forests. Consequently, CISP also supports funding the Forest Health Management program on National Forests at \$56 million for fiscal year 2020.

USDA FOREST SERVICE FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Effective programs to prevent, suppress, and eradicate non-native insects, diseases, and plants depend on understanding of the pest-host relationship gained through research. We seek \$310 million for the USDA Forest Service Research and Development program in fiscal year 2020.

Past reductions have already severely reduced the Service's ability to carry out vitally important research on non-native insects, diseases, and plants. Thus, funding for research conducted by the Research stations on 10 non-native pests decreased from \$10 million in fiscal year 2010 to just \$3 million in fiscal year 2018. Cuts of this magnitude cripple the Service's ability to develop effective tools to manage the growing number of pests threatening the health of the Nation's forests, regardless of ownership.

The budget does not specify funding levels within the Research and Development budget that should be allocated to non-native insects, pathogens, or other invasive species. We ask the subcommittee to include in its report language an instruction that the Service increase the funding for this vital research area to 5 percent of the total research budget.

For further information, please contact Faith T. Campbell at phytodoer@aol.com.

[This statement was submitted by Faith T. Campbell, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

On behalf of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), I encourage you to include \$2 million for salinity specific projects in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Aquatic Habitat Management sub-activity (formerly known as the Soil, Water and Air Program) in fiscal year 2020. The funding will help protect the water quality of the Colorado River that is used by approximately 40 million people for municipal and industrial purposes and used to irrigate approximately 5.5 million acres in the United States.

CAWCD manages the Central Arizona Project (CAP), a multi-purpose water resource development and management project that delivers Colorado River water into central and southern Arizona. The largest supplier of renewable water in Arizona, CAP diverts an average of over 1.5 million acre-feet of Arizona's 2.8 million acre-foot Colorado River entitlement each year to municipal and industrial users, agricultural irrigation districts, and Indian communities.

Our goal at CAP is to provide an affordable, reliable and sustainable supply of Colorado River water to a service area that includes more than 80 percent of Arizona's population.

These renewable water supplies are critical to Arizona's economy and to the economies of Native American communities throughout the State. Nearly 90 percent of economic activity in the State of Arizona occurs within CAP's service area. The canal provides an economic benefit of \$100 billion annually, accounting for one-third of the entire Arizona gross State product. CAP also helps the State of Arizona meet its water management and regulatory objectives of reducing groundwater use and ensuring availability of groundwater as a supplemental water supply during future

droughts. Achieving and maintaining these water management objectives is critical to the long-term sustainability of a State as arid as Arizona.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CONCENTRATED SALTS

Natural and man-induced salt loading to the Colorado River creates environmental and economic damages. EPA has identified that more than 60 percent of the salt load of the Colorado River comes from natural sources. The majority of land within the Colorado River Basin is federally owned, much of which is administered by BLM. Human activity, principally irrigation, adds to salt load of the Colorado River. Further, natural and human activities concentrate the dissolved salts in the River.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has estimated the current quantifiable damages at about \$454 million per year to U.S. users with projections that damages would increase to approximately \$574 million per year by 2035 if the program were not to continue. These damages include:

- A reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use to meet the leaching requirements in the agricultural sector;
- Increased use of imported water and cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycling water in the municipal sector;
- A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector;
- An increase in the cost of cooling operations and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;
- An increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;
- A decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector; and
- Difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins.

Adequate funding for salinity control will prevent the water quality of the Colorado River from further degradation and avoid significant increases in economic damages to municipal, industrial and irrigation users.

HISTORY OF THE BLM COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM

In implementing the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974, Congress recognized that most of the salts in the Colorado River originate from federally owned lands. Title I of the Salinity Control Act deals with the U.S. commitment to the quality of waters being delivered to Mexico. Title II of the Act deals with improving the quality of the water delivered to users in the United States. This testimony deals specific with Title II efforts. In 1984, Congress amended the Salinity Control Act and directed that the Secretary of the Interior develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM.

In 2000, Congress reiterated its directive to the Secretary and requested a report on the implementation of BLM's program (Public Law 106-459). In 2003, BLM employed a Salinity Coordinator to increase BLM efforts in the Colorado River Basin and to pursue salinity control studies and to implement specific salinity control practices. Meaningful resources have been expended by BLM in the past few years to better understand salt mobilization on rangelands. With a significant portion of the salt load of the Colorado River coming from BLM administered lands, the BLM portion of the overall program is essential to the success of the effort. Inadequate BLM salinity control efforts will result in significant additional economic damages to water users downstream.

The threat of salinity continues to be a concern in both the United States and Mexico. On November 20, 2012, a five-year agreement, known as Minute 319, was signed between the U.S. and Mexico to guide future management of the Colorado River. Among the key issues addressed in Minute 319 included an agreement to maintain current salinity management and existing salinity standards. The United States, Mexico, and key water users, including CAWCD, worked since 2015 to develop a successor agreement, Minute 323, which was finalized on September 27, 2017. Minute 323 continues collaboration and cooperation among the United States and Mexico with respect to salinity control in the Colorado River system. The CAWCD and other key water providers are committed to meeting these goals.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of salinity control practices through the BLM Program has proven to be a very cost effective method of controlling the salinity of the Colorado River and is an essential component of the overall Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

CAWCD urges the subcommittee to include \$2 million for salinity specific projects in the BLM's Soil, Water and Air Program. The continuation of funding will prevent further degradation of the water quality of the Colorado River and further degradation and economic damages experienced by municipal, industrial and irrigation users. A modest investment in source control pays huge dividends in improved drinking water quality for nearly 40 million Americans.

[This statement was submitted by Theodore C. Cooke, General Manager.]

 PREPARED STATEMENT OF CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

On behalf of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, I am submitting this written statement for the hearing record on the fiscal year 2020 budgets for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This testimony identifies healthcare funding priorities and budget issues important to the Choctaw Nation and its citizens.

First, and foremost, the Choctaw Nation requests that Congress exempt Tribal Government Services and Program Funding from Sequestrations, Unilateral Rescissions and Budget Cuts in all future appropriations. We also request that Congress continues to fully fund Contract Support Cost (CSC) without impacting direct program funding.

The Choctaw Nation requests that the subcommittee works to approve timely appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and we trust all efforts will be made to have a Federal appropriation prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. However, in fiscal year 2019, the Interior appropriations, including funding to provide direct healthcare services for our people, was severely delayed due to the longest partial government shutdown in our history. The Indian Health Service (IHS) system (including Tribal) was the only Federal direct healthcare system that was affected by the partial government shutdown, leaving IHS and Tribes alike scrambling to ensure that patients continued to receive access to critical healthcare services during this time. Tribes, with the inability to be paid any of its compact funds during the partial shutdown period, found themselves in the awkward position of finding a way to continue to administer services that are Trust obligations of the Federal Government for which the government was not providing funding. This situation is untenable.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) finalized a report in September, 2018 analyzing the possibility of advanced appropriations for Indian Health Service. IHS Advanced Appropriations would eliminate the negative effect of any government shutdown and allow these critical health services to operate uninterrupted. It is time for advanced appropriations to be enacted for IHS, and we look to the subcommittee for leadership and support to make it a reality this year.

Thank you for continuing to appropriate funds in 2017 for the Joint Venture Project (JVP), a proven, successful model for leveraging Federal resources to improve access to care in Indian Country. We most recently opened the Choctaw Nation Durant Regional Medical Clinic, in February 2017. We were the first Tribal or IHS program to have an ambulatory surgery suite in an outpatient facility. Other services also include primary care, dental, pediatrics, lab, diabetes care, community health nurses, optometry, radiology services (including MRI, CT, bone density, mammography, ultrasound, fluoroscopy and x-ray), pharmacy, behavioral health, physical therapy, and numerous specialty care services. This JVP with IHS has been an invaluable exercise in partnership and investment in improved quality healthcare for Native American people.

Although there are many facility needs in the Choctaw Nation and Oklahoma City Area, none are included on the IHS Health Facilities Construction program listing. The current backlog would take decades to construct at the current pace of appropriations and yet it will still not address any needs in Oklahoma. The only viable option for Tribal health facilities in Oklahoma is the JVP, which is a very small and highly competitive program. IHS has not held a competition for the program since 2014 and has created a similar 'queue' as the large Health Facilities Construction program, which is both bureaucratic and ineffective. The IHS should be strongly encouraged to abandon this failed approach and compete the JVP on at least a bi-annual basis to address the highest facility priorities.

We strongly urge the Committee to protect the Federal trust and treaty obligations that are funded in the Federal domestic budget. Federal funding that meets Federal Indian treaty and trust obligations also provides significant contributions to the economy. The Department of the Interior (DOI), the BIA and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) contribute substantially to economic growth in Tribal areas through advances in infrastructure, strategic planning, improved practices of governance, and the development of human capital.

THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is the third largest Native American Tribal government in the United States with over 230,000 members. The Choctaw Nation territory consists of all or part of 10½ counties in Southeast Oklahoma, and we are proudly one of the State's largest employers. The Nation operates a hospital at Tahihina, Oklahoma, and a system of eight (8) outpatient health facilities, along with a broad range of ancillary services.

The Nation also administers referred specialty care and sanitation facilities construction; higher education; Johnson O'Malley program; housing improvement; child welfare and social services; law enforcement; and, many other programs and services. The Choctaw Nation has operated under the Self-Governance authority in the DOI since 1994 and in the Department of Health and Human Services' IHS since 1995. As a Self-Governance Tribe, the Nation is able to re-design programs to meet tribally-specific needs without diminishing the United States' trust responsibility.

NATIONAL BUDGET REQUESTS—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

1. *Special Diabetes Program for Indians.*—Support reauthorization of \$200 million/year for 5 years (IHS): The administration's budget proposes to move SDPI from "mandatory funding" which Congress must authorize from time to time to "discretionary spending" which would allow Congress to control the funding going to SDPI as part of the annual appropriations process. That means SDPI will compete with other Indian programs annually, as opposed to being funded automatically outside of that environment today. Indian Country has not been consulted on this proposal and the rationale for the request has not been made available to us. We request no changes until such consultation occurs.
2. *Contract Support Costs—Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs (IHS and BIA).*—The Nation appreciates the continued support of the Committees to fully fund CSC requirements without impacting direct Indian health programs. Beginning in fiscal year 2014, fully funding CSC has made a tremendous improvement and properly retained important health program funding to direct services. We request that IHS and BIA be instructed to consult with Tribes on every provision of the CSC Policy until both sides reach consensus; and if at any time the agencies seek to unilaterally make changes, they should be directed to consult with Tribes prior to any changes in the CSC Policy.
3. *Purchased and Referred Care (PRC).*—The Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program pays for urgent and emergency, specialty care and other critical services that are not directly available through IHS and Tribally-operated health programs when no IHS direct care facility exists, or the direct care facility cannot provide the required emergency or specialty care, or the facility has more demand for services than it can currently meet. Although the Nation operates a hospital facility, the hospital is located in a very rural area, we are the only provider in the community and services are limited. In fact, our hospital does not have an intensive care unit, which requires patients to be flown to another facility using PRC. Therefore, PRC is a significant need to provide intensive care and tertiary care, as well as emergency transportation.
4. *IHS Mandatory Funding (Maintaining Current Services).*—Existing funding levels must keep pace with population growth, inflation and the like, or the result is similar to a reduced budget with less purchasing power. One very good example are the extraordinary rise in pharmaceutical costs. Over the last 3 years, the IHS has seen an increase of 8.8 percent in pharmaceutical expenditures alone.
5. *Workforce Development—permanent funding for Graduate Medical Education.*—The Choctaw Nation has operated an accredited and successful Graduate Medical Education program, or GME since receiving a grant from the Health Care Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in 2010. The Nation has found the GME program to be integral to our physician recruiting and retention efforts in a rural, remote area. As a Teaching Health Center, our residents are very likely to practice following their residency in our health sys-

tem, or close by in rural Oklahoma, which is also underserved. Physicians considering employment are often interested in GME and it becomes a recruitment tool outside the residents themselves. Other benefits are: (1) becoming a THC is a marker of quality; (2) improved in-house physician coverage; (3) “growing your own” medical staff from nearby rural communities; (4) high retention and satisfaction rates of residency graduates; (5) promotes an environment of life long learning; (6) provides enhanced continuing medical education opportunities; (7) encourages Medical Staff to be up on current literature and topics; and (8) Engages the existing staff and is seen as a “breath of fresh air”. While the HRSA funding has been helpful, it is competitive and sporadic—sometimes with unknown future appropriations. GME programs should be funded permanently in the Indian health system so that IHS and Tribal sites with hospitals can address some of the dire challenges in recruiting and retaining health professionals in rural areas.

6. *Opioid Funding.*—We appreciate the set asides for Indian health that have been made in various initiatives for funding addressing the opioid epidemic. Increase funding and include Tribal set asides rather than to make it funding through States. Addressing the opioid epidemic is a nationwide priority. American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) face opioid related fatalities three times the rate of non-Natives.
7. *Information Technology.*—The IHS health information technology (HIT) program continues to face increased demand for systems improvements and enhancements, rising costs, and increased information technology (IT) security requirements driven in part by medical advances, and ever-growing and more complex requirements for HIT capabilities. Virtually any new program initiative has IT requirements for functionality, modality, data collection, and reporting which then must be added to a clinician’s work flow and managed within the HIT portfolio. In addition to the overall increased demand, the HIT program must also plan for a change in Electronic Health Record platforms resulting from the decision by the Veteran’s Administration (VA) to replace their current legacy HIT platform, VistA. To prepare for this transition that is expected to occur over the next 5 years, the IHS HIT program will be required to devote additional budgetary resources for infrastructure modernization, training, and support.

Thank you for accepting my written statement on behalf of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

[This statement was submitted by Melanie Fourkiller, Senior Policy Analyst.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CHOOSE CLEAN WATER COALITION

Dear Chair Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

To follow a common sense path to maintain healthy local water and restore Chesapeake Bay, which is critical for our regional economy, the undersigned members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition request funding for the following programs in fiscal year 2020:

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chesapeake Bay Program—\$90 million.—We request an increase in funding to \$90 million for the base budget of the Chesapeake Bay Program, which coordinates Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and protection efforts. More than two-thirds of the program’s funds are passed through to the States and local communities for on-the-ground restoration work through the Small Watershed Grants, Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants, State Implementation Grants, Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program grants and local government grants. This would be the first increase in funding for the Chesapeake in 6 years—since a very modest 4 percent increase in fiscal year 2015. We are advocating for an additional \$17 million to go to the States, local governments and local entities to do on-the-ground restoration that will help the region move toward its clean up goals in 2025.

We strongly support the Chesapeake Small Watershed Grants and the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants—and request \$9 million for each of these critical grant programs. These grants go directly to on-the-ground restoration efforts by local governments and communities, including to family farms, and are critical to addressing the new increased pollution loadings from Conowingo Dam. We recognize the high priority that Congress has placed on these two grant programs for

years and support the effort to get more Federal funds on the ground at the local level.

We urge you to fund the Chesapeake Bay Program at \$90 million in fiscal year 2020, and specify that \$9 million of that amount be provided for Small Watershed Grants (\$3 million more than in fiscal year 2019) and \$9 million be provided for Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants (\$3 million more than in fiscal year 2019). We also support additional funding of \$5 million for Local Government Implementation Funding and \$6 million for priority watersheds to address the additional pollution reductions that must be met over the next 6 years, due to the Conowingo Dam.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)—\$5 billion.—This program is critical to any national initiative to provide a Federal Infrastructure Spending Plan and it provides the lifeblood for the 1,779 local governments throughout the Chesapeake region to secure their water infrastructure. The funding level for the Clean Water SRF has eroded over the years as the clean water needs of local communities have increased dramatically. The Clean Water SRF is one of the funding components of the Clean Water Act to ensure that local governments have Federal funding support for the Act's mandates. We request tripling the current funding for the Clean Water SRF.

These low interest loans are critical for clean water and for ratepayers in the Chesapeake region and nationwide. We urge you to support the \$5 billion funding level that would provide \$1.07 billion in low interest loans to local governments in Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia—three times the current level of funding. We also strongly support targeting 20 percent of the Clean Water SRF funds for green infrastructure and innovative projects including those to manage stormwater, which helps communities improve water quality while creating green space, mitigating flooding. As the list of clean water infrastructure needs in the Chesapeake region continues to expand, we request that Congress triple the funding of the Clean Water SRF from fiscal year 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—Chesapeake Ecosystem Science and Monitoring—\$12.85 million.—We support full funding for USGS to continue to provide the critical science necessary for restoration and protection efforts for fish, wildlife and the 18 million people in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. USGS monitoring and assessment informs decisions made by the Department of the Interior as well as other Federal and State partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program on issues related to fisheries and associated water quality, waterfowl and their habitats, and land protection.

In fiscal year 2020, USGS, working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will put a new focus on habitat conditions for commercial and recreational fisheries. This will help State and Federal agencies develop a more comprehensive approach to restore and protect fisheries. The comprehensive approach will better tie together Chesapeake Bay Program efforts to: (1) reduce nutrient and sediment pollution under the Bay total maximum daily load (TMDL); (2) mitigate the effects of toxic contaminants; and (3) improve stream and estuary habitats important for fisheries.

National Park Service—Chesapeake Regional Programs—\$3.891 million.—The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office has led efforts on a number of small, but very important programs that focus on increasing public access and the use of ecological, cultural and historic resources of the Chesapeake region.

We are requesting increased funding for the key program currently administered by the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office in the Chesapeake Bay watershed: Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails (\$3.0 million). Gateways helps to preserve critical landscapes and natural resources in the region and has contributed over \$16 million in technical and financial assistance for more than 300 projects in the Bay watershed. We urge you to increase funding for the Gateways program from \$2.02 million in fiscal year 2019 to \$3 million in fiscal year 2020. In addition, we urge continued support for coordinating programs through the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office (\$495,000). In addition, as in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, we urge you to extend the authorization for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails program, specifically for 2 more years.

We also support continued funding for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at \$396,000. We are, however, very concerned with the recent administrative transfer of this Historic Trail program from the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office to the Colonial National Historic Park in Virginia. We

urge Congress to reassert your intent that the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail be administered by the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office in Annapolis, Maryland, as it has been since 2007.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Park Service/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/U.S. Forest Service—Land and Water Conservation Fund Priority Projects in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed—\$16.7705 million.—We strongly support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In particular, we support continuation of the strategic use of funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for priority projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These efforts target conservation funds for critical priority landscapes throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. The following projects would protect more than 6,000 acres of nationally significant resources.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—James River National Wildlife Refuge—\$750,000 (255 acres)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge—\$3 million (968 acres)
- U.S. Forest Service—George Washington and Jefferson National Forests—\$435,500 (144 acres)
- U.S. Forest Service—George Washington and Jefferson National Forests—\$4,285,000 (2,897 acres)
- National Park Service—Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail—\$5,000,000 (1,400 acres)
- National Park Service—Richmond National Battlefield Park—\$3,300,000 (380 acres)

Thank you for your consideration of these very important requests. Please contact Peter J. Marx at peter@choosetocleanwater.org with any questions or concerns.

Action Together Northeastern Pennsylvania	Ducks Unlimited
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	Earth Conservation Corps
Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley	Earthworks
American Chestnut Land Trust	Earth Forum of Howard County
American Rivers	Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Anacostia Riverkeeper	Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Anacostia Watershed Society	Elizabeth River Project
Annapolis Green	Environmental Integrity Project
Arundel Rivers Federation	Environmental Justice Center of Chestnut Hill United Church
Audubon Maryland/DC	Environmental Working Group
Audubon Naturalist Society	Experience Learning
Audubon Society of Northern Virginia	Float Fishermen of Virginia
Back Creek Conservancy	Friends of Accotink Creek
Baltimore Tree Trust	Friends of Frederick County
Blue Heron Environmental Network	Friends of Herring Run Park
Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition	Friends of Little Hunting Creek
Blue Water Baltimore	Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
Butternut Valley Alliance	Friends of Quincy Run
Cacapon Institute	Friends of Sligo Creek
Capital Region Land Conservancy	Friends of the Bohemia
Catskill Mountainkeeper	Friends of the Cacapon River
Center for Progressive Reform	Friends of Dyke Marsh
Chapman Forest Foundation	Friends of the Middle River
Chemung River Friends	Friends of the Nanticoke River
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Friends of the Rappahannock
Chesapeake Conservancy	Friends of St. Clements Bay
Chesapeake Legal Alliance	Goose Creek Association
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage	Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Clean Fairfax	James River Association
Clean Water Action	Lackawanna River Conservation Association
Clean Water Linganore	Lancaster Farmland Trust
Coalition for Smarter Growth	Little Falls Watershed Alliance
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania	
DC Environmental Network	
Delaware Nature Society	

Lower Shore Land Trust	Restore America's Estuaries
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper	Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection
Lynnhaven River NOW	Richmond Audubon Society
Maryland Conservation Council	Rivanna Conservation Alliance
Maryland Environmental Health Network	St. Mary's River Watershed Association
Maryland League of Conservation Voters	Savage River Watershed Association
Maryland Native Plant Society	Severn River Association
Maryland Nonprofits	Shenandoah Riverkeeper Shenandoah Valley Network
Maryland Science Center	ShoreRivers
Mattawoman Watershed Society	Sidney Center Improvement Group
Mid-Atlantic Council Trout Unlimited	Sierra Club—Maryland Chapter
Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper	Sleepy Creek Watershed Association
Muddy Branch Alliance	Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project
National Aquarium	Southern Environmental Law Center
National Parks Conservation Association	Southern Maryland Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation	SouthWings
Natural Resources Defense Council	Susquehanna Heritage
Nature Abounds	Talbot Preservation Alliance
NeighborSpace of Baltimore County	The Downstream Project
New York League of Conservation Voters	Transition Howard County
New York State Council of Trout Unlimited	Trash Free Maryland
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch	Trout Unlimited
Otsego County Conservation Association	Upper Potomac Riverkeeper
Otsego Land Trust	Upper Susquehanna Coalition
Partnership for Smarter Growth	Virginia Association of Biological Farming
Patapsco Heritage Greenway	Virginia Conservation Network
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust	Virginia League of Conservation Voters
PennEnvironment	Warm Springs Watershed Association
PennFuture	Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Inc.
Pennsylvania Council of Churches	Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited	West Virginia Citizen Action Group
Piedmont Environmental Council	West Virginia Environmental Council
Potomac Conservancy	West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Potomac Riverkeeper	West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Potomac Riverkeeper Network	Wetlands Watch
Potomac Valley Audubon Society	Wicomico Environmental Trust
Queen Anne's Conservation Association	
Preservation Maryland	
Rachel Carson Council	

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) is pleased to submit written testimony reflecting the needs, concerns and requests of CRRC for fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Our recurring funding is included in the administration's annual budget within the BIA's Tribal Management Development Program (TM/DP) account. The Bureau of Indian Affairs not only has a legal and contractual obligation to provide funding for the CRRC, but the CRRC is able to translate this funding into real economic opportunity for those living in the small Alaska Native villages located in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet. We leveraged a meager budget of well under a half million dollars in BIA funds and to operate with a budget of nearly \$2 million to support community-based programs (almost a five-to-one ratio). In previous years, the administration has proposed to cut TMDP funding by 25 percent and slash our funding. Reducing the already-modest funding we and other organizations like ours receive would be a mistake, and we urge this Committee to consider expanding on the resources we have available to do our critical work.

For example, a modest increase of \$100,000 in fiscal year 2020 funding for CRRC may translate into as much as \$500,000 in additional revenues that we can use to serve our Alaska Native communities. As noted in the administration's budget request for fiscal year 2019 concerning the BIA's TM/DP:

[The Tribal Management/Development Program (TMDP) supports Tribal self-determination by allowing Tribal management of fish and game

programs . . . Contract agreements are executed with individual fish and wildlife resource Tribes [and consortia] to accomplish management objectives. Tribes administer programs that contribute significantly towards economic development [].

CRRC is an intertribal organization organized in 1984 by the seven Native Villages located in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet in South-central Alaska; namely, Tatitlek Village IRA Council, Chenega IRA Council, Port Graham Village Council, Nanwalek IRA Council, Native Village of Eyak, Qutekcak Native Tribe, and Valdez Native Tribe. The success of our programs, from both an economic and social standpoint, make them an integral part of our constituent Tribes' ongoing development. Reductions in our BIA funding will limit our outreach and ability to leverage additional Federal, State, local and other Tribal resources which are critical to our program's and our constituent Tribes' success.

CRRC was created to address environmental and natural resources issues and to develop culturally-sensitive economic projects at the community level to support the sustainable development of the region's natural resources. The Native Villages' action to create a separate Tribal entity demonstrates the concern and importance the Tribal governments hold for environmental and natural resource management and protection—which is the wellspring for jobs and the perpetuation of our Alaska Native communities and culture.

Through its many important programs, CRRC provides employment for up to 20 Native people in the Chugach Region annually—an area of high unemployment—through programs that conserve and restore our natural resources and ensure a future for our Tribal communities.

Federal investment in CRRC has translated into real economic opportunities, savings and community investments that have a great impact on the Chugach region. Our employees are able to earn a living and support their families, thereby removing them from the rolls of people needing Alaska State and Federal support. This contributes to family and community stability and is a bulwark against depression, substance abuse, suicide and other ills that plague remote Tribal communities. With the job opportunities made possible by CRRC programs, Alaska Native members are able to reinvest their wages into the community, supporting the employment of and opportunities for other Alaska Native and non-Native families. Our programs also support future economic and commercial opportunities for the Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet regions—protecting and developing our shellfish industry and other natural resources.

Programs.—CRRC has leveraged its recurring BIA funding into almost \$2 million to support our community-based programs. Specifically, the \$410,000 in base funding provided through BIA appropriations has allowed CRRC to maintain core administrative operations and seek specific project funding from other sources such as the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), the State of Alaska, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Education, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, the North Pacific Research Board and other foundations. This diverse funding pool has enabled CRRC to develop and operate several important programs that provide vital services, valuable products, and necessary employment and commercial opportunities. These programs include:

Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery.—The Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery is the only shellfish hatchery in the State of Alaska. The 20,000 square foot shellfish hatchery is located in Seward, Alaska, and houses shellfish seed (cockles, littlenecks and butter clams), brood stock and algae production facilities. Alutiiq Pride is undertaking a hatchery nursery operation, as well as grow-out operation research to adapt mariculture techniques for the Alaskan Shellfish industry. The Hatchery is also conducting scientific research on blue and red king crab as part of a larger federally-sponsored program.

Alutiiq Pride has already been successful in culturing geoduck, oyster, littleneck clam, and razor clam species and is currently working on sea cucumbers. This research has the potential to dramatically increase commercial opportunities for the region in the future. The activities of Alutiiq Pride are especially important for the region; as the only shellfish hatchery in the State, it is uniquely qualified to carry out this research and production.

Alutiiq Pride staff are working on developing a shellfish sanctuary concept in Port Graham and Resurrection Bay, acquiring land use permits from the Department of Natural Resources for Port Graham and from the Alaska Railroad for Resurrection Bay. Port Graham has been stocked with 220 little neck, 200 cockles and 220 butter clam adults and CRRC is working to reduce predation and ensure greater survival rates.

Alutiiq Pride also devotes considerable time to its Ocean Acidification (OA) monitoring lab, processing 300 discrete samples collected from villages and scientific partners. A Burk-O- Later, an instrument that tests for aragonite saturation, required for shellfish to form their shells, requires frequent maintenance and calibration.

Alutiiq Pride recently implemented a preventive maintenance program to prolong the useful life of essential capital equipment. Alutiiq Pride installed chillers at its facility that were donated by the University of Alaska. The chillers will house king crab brood stock in the event water temperatures are too high. In 2016, warm waters caused the crabs to release their larvae early which reduced survivability.

Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.—As a member of the AMBCC, CRRC works with 10 Native non-profit organizations, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the State of Alaska to develop regulations governing the subsistence harvest of migratory birds during the spring and summer. As a result of many years representing the Chugach Region on the AMBCC, CRRC was unanimously selected to serve as the managing entity for the statewide program, housing staff in the CRRC office and providing overall management of the subsistence migratory bird program on behalf of the USFWS. Funding for this program comes from the USFWS to the Alaska Native non-profit organization through cooperative agreements. There is no specific line item for the AMBCC in the USFWS budget, so the Tribes do not know what level of funding will be available for the program, from year to year. In addition, funding decisions for the AMBCC are done internally at the USFWS, so there is no opportunity for input by the Tribes in this decision-making process. The Native Caucus of the AMBCC has directed the staff to pursue a Public Law 93–638 contract or compact with the USFWS and we are asking Congress to support this effort with \$1 million in funding.

Climate Change.—CRRC has been identifying and addressing climate needs relative to understudied resources of high cultural value to our member Tribes through its Climate Change Program. Changing climate affects ecosystems in the Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, and the Kenai Peninsula in a variety of ways. CRRC's member Tribes are extremely susceptible to climate change from adverse effects relating to declining water resources, reduced aquaculture productivity, changing resource harvest patterns, and resource availability. This program addresses ecosystem information needs as it will demonstrate the need to integrate across information types (i.e., weather, climate, socioeconomic, policy, and ecology) to better inform those involved in climate change-related decisionmaking for ecosystem management. Through your support for this project, we have been able to secure additional funding to focus on vulnerability assessments for key subsistence species, the development of an adaptation plan, and harmful algal blooms, and food security.

Traditional Foods Security.—There is heightened concern about the availability of and the potential contaminants in the subsistence foods that Tribal members eat. The primary food sources have changed dramatically over the past 100 years. Traditional food systems such as hunting, fishing, and gathering have declined and there has been an increased reliance on store-bought foods. The intrinsic value of harvesting a local food sources in traditional ways cannot be overstated. Issues our member Tribes face include changing marine and terrestrial environments where traditional foods gathered in the forest and on the beaches near the villages are no longer available. The ways in which foods are produced, distributed and consumed have direct implications for the local economy and community.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Invasive Species Program.—Each year, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announces grant opportunities through the BIA Natural Resources program. In the announcement under “Project Eligibility” it reads: “Successful applications will focus on the management/control of invasive species on Tribal trust lands, individual Indian allotment lands, or in areas managed by Tribes through treaties or agreements.” The Invasive Species Program is for invasive species on land managed by Tribes and is not intended for marine waters, since these are not areas managed by Tribes. Some of our Tribes, Nanwalek and Port Graham, have trust lands, the others, Chenega Bay, Eyak, Seward, Valdez and Tatitlek do not. Therefore, Nanwalek and Port Graham would be eligible for the Invasive Species Program funding for any work on those allotment lands, but CRRC could not implement a region-wide invasive species management approach. This funding is important to our Tribes. Coastal Tribes, especially those who rely on healthy marine ecosystems, are especially vulnerable to the potential harm of invasive species. CRRC's member Tribes are willing to initiate a proactive response to the dangers of invasive species, but the trust land requirement prevents them from participating.

CONCLUSION

We urge the subcommittee and Congress to protect and increase CRRC's fiscal year 2019 appropriation level of \$410,000 in the BIA's fiscal year 2020 budget for TMDP. We also, urge the subcommittee to support the AMBCC with additional funding and direct the BIA to move past its overly-restrictive eligibility requirements for the Invasive Species program. With a five-to-one return on every Federal dollar invested in CRRC, we clearly demonstrate our ability to effectively administer these dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

[This statement was submitted by Patricia K. Schwalenberg, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COALITION AGAINST FOREST PESTS

SIGNATORIES:

American Forests, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, California Forest Pest Council, Center for Invasive Species Prevention, Maine Forest Service, National Association of Forest Owners, National Woodland Owners Association, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, Vermont Woodlands Association

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Murkowski, Honorable Ranking Member Udall, and Honorable Committee Members:

The Coalition Against Forest Pests (CAFP) consists of non-profit organizations, for-profit entities, landowners, State agency associations and academic scholars who have joined together to improve our Nation's efforts to address forest health threats.

We thank you for your continued support of USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs in the fiscal year 2019 Omnibus bill. We write to ask your support for adequate funding of programs managed by the USDA Forest Service that help keep the Nation's forests healthy by preventing introduction and spread of invasive pests. Specifically, we ask the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to maintain fiscal year 2019 funding levels in fiscal year 2020 and increase funding for specific programs with a long and effective history of detecting and eradicating non-native forest pests.

Forested landscapes cover approximately one-third of the land area of the United States. All forests benefit Americans. Whether rural or urban; Federal, State or privately forests they provide wood products, jobs for rural economies, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, clean water and air, and aesthetic enjoyment.

FOREST HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS ON COOPERATIVE LANDS

Maintaining or increasing funding for forest health management on cooperative lands is essential to ensuring the health and productivity of the Nation's forests, over 60 percent of which are State or privately owned. Forest-based rural economies and the thousands of jobs they support are also tied to healthy forests, not only in the forest products sector but for recreation industries as well. The economic well-being of tens of thousands of American families depends on healthy forests.

Since fiscal year 2010, spending to combat 2011 specified non-native insects and pathogens decreased about 50 percent—to \$12.8 million in fiscal year 2018. Pest species suffering the largest cuts are the Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, oak wilt, sudden oak death, and the combination of gold spotted oak borer, thousand cankers disease, and laurel wilt. These pests do not limit themselves to destruction on federally owned lands.

Since 2001, Oregon Department of Forestry, USFS, & BLM have spent an average of \$1.9 million per year to treat Sudden Oak Death in Curry County, Oregon. Continuing this cooperative containment program is essential to protecting economic, cultural, aesthetic, and ecological values of southwest Oregon. Based on models of disease spread, recent economic analysis concluded that continuing to spend at approximately the same level—\$30 million spent on slow the spread treatments over the next 20 years—could offset the loss of 1,200 jobs by 2028 and \$580 million in wages from 2028 to 2038.

The Cooperative Forest Health Management program supports activities related to prevention, monitoring, suppression, and eradication of insects, diseases, and plants through technical and financial assistance to State forestry agencies who deal directly with private forest owners. Because forest pests and disease know no bounds, controlling pests on private lands can stop millions of dollars in damage to public lands and vice versa.

CAFP supports funding the Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands Program at \$51 million and on National Forests at \$59 million for fiscal year 2020.

USDA FOREST SERVICE FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Effective programs to prevent, suppress, and eradicate non-native insects, diseases, and plants depend on understanding of the pest-host relationship gained through research.

The Service's ability to carry out vitally important research on non-native insects, diseases, and plants has already been severely reduced by cuts in previous years. Funding for research conducted by the Research stations on 10 non-native pests has decreased from \$10 million in fiscal year 2010 to just \$3 million in fiscal year 2018. Cuts of this magnitude cripple the Service's ability to develop effective tools to manage the growing number of pests threatening the health of the Nation's forests across all ownerships.

CAFP supports funding the Forest and Rangeland Research Program in fiscal year 2020 at \$303 million, of which \$32 million should be allocated to invasive species research.

USDA FOREST SERVICE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS PROGRAM

Urban and community forests play a critical role in the health of our cities and the health our cities' residents. These forests and tree canopies provide noise abatement, temperature reductions, runoff filtration and flood control as well as improving the quality of life for those living in and around these green areas.

When non-native insects and diseases attack trees and forests, enormous losses may arise. Most of the quantified costs are in cities and suburbs; across the country each year, municipal governments spend more than \$2 billion per year to remove trees on city property that are killed by non-native pests. Homeowners spend \$1 billion every year to remove and replace trees on their properties and absorb an additional \$1.5 billion in reduced property values. As new pests are introduced, and established pests spread, these costs will only continue to rise.

A considerable number of non-native invasive pests and diseases are introduced through cities. As noted above, these pests cost people living in these cities and suburbs—directly or through their local taxes—billions of dollars per year to remove and replace trees killed by the non-native pests. As new pests are introduced, and established pests spread, these costs will only continue to rise. For example, the polyphagous and Kuroshio shot hole borers are projected to cost municipalities and homeowners in California \$36.2 billion if spread is not prevented.

CAFP supports funding the Urban and Community Forests Program at \$35 million for fiscal year 2020.

For further information, please contact Faith T. Campbell, Coalition Contact Person, Coalition Against Forest Pests, at phytodoer@aol.com.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COALITION FOR AMERICAN HERITAGE

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the Coalition for American Heritage's recommendations for fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations.

The Coalition for American Heritage ("the Coalition") is an organization comprised of heritage professionals, scholars, small businesses, non-profits and history-lovers across the country. Our 350,000 members work together to promote our Nation's commitment to historic preservation. Preserving historic resources helps stabilize neighborhoods, attract investment, create jobs, generate tax revenues, support small businesses, and power America's heritage tourism industry.

To continue our country's proud tradition of preservation, the Coalition urges robust funding for all of the U.S. Department of the Interior's historic preservation and cultural management programs, and for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Respectfully, the Coalition urges the Committee to approve the following funding levels for fiscal year 2020:

- National Park Service (NPS): \$2.5 billion
- NPS Historic Preservation Fund: \$148.5 million
- NPS Deferred Maintenance: \$476 million
- NPS Office of International Affairs: \$1.5 million

- NPS National Heritage Areas and Heritage Partnership Program: \$32 million
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cultural Resources Management: \$20 million
- BLM National Landscape Conservation System: \$45 million
- Department of Interior Land and Conservation Fund (LWCF): continued increase toward the full \$900 million in dedicated funding from offshore mineral leasing revenues
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA): \$167.5 million
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): \$167.5 million

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

We urge the Committee to fund the NPS at the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$2.5 billion. The popularity of our national parks is at an all-time high. Our country cannot afford unwarranted reductions to visitor services and cuts to the responsible stewardship of our historic and cultural resources. The NPS is responsible for 418 National Park System units. Over the past 20 years, more than 40 new parks have been added to the park system. Many recent additions preserve historic places and themes that have traditionally been underrepresented within the system.

Within the \$2.5 billion requested, we recommend robust funding for Resource Stewardship, including \$1 million for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, \$2 million for the African American Civil Rights Network, and \$2 million for the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network. Funding for these popular initiatives provides the public with valuable educational resources that honor and preserve our country's rich African American heritage and history for future generations.

NPS HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

We urge the Committee to appropriate \$148.5 million in fiscal year 2020 for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), a vital program that, in partnership with States, local governments and Tribes, is the cornerstone of our country's historic preservation initiatives.

Within the \$148.5 million request, we recommend the following funding breakdown:

- \$60 million for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) for heritage preservation and protection programs.
- \$20 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs).
- \$5 million for a new competitive grant program to digitize, map and survey historic and cultural resources. Using this program, SHPOs and THPOs could create and enhance GIS-based maps of historic resources and develop predictive models. This investment would advance the faster, less expensive, and more efficient delivery of infrastructure projects while ensuring the protection of America's most cherished historic resources.
- \$30 million for competitive grants to document, interpret, and preserve historic sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement.
- \$15 million for Save America's Treasures grants for the preservation of nationally significant sites, structures and artifacts.
- \$10 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to preserve and repair historic buildings.
- \$7.5 million for preservation grants to revitalize historic properties of national, State, and local significance.
- \$1 million for competitive grants for the survey and nomination of properties associated with communities currently underrepresented on the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks.

NPS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

We urge the Committee to appropriate \$476 million in fiscal year 2020 to address the deferred maintenance backlog at America's national parks. Almost half of the current backlog concern historic assets. Robust investments in this area will contribute to the successful preservation of historic sites and structures and other NPS cultural resources. Without critically needed funding for repair and rehabilitation, these critical sites, buildings and artifacts that draw visitors to our national parks assets risk further deterioration and potential loss.

- Within the \$476 million request, we recommend the following funding breakdown:
- \$160 million for Line Item Construction projects
 - \$150 million for Repair and Rehabilitation
 - \$166 million for Cyclic Maintenance

Line Item Construction projects: We support at least \$160 million toward addressing the needs of the highest priority non-transportation assets.

Repair and Rehabilitation: We recommend \$150 million, a \$14 million increase above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. The Committee's support for these programs has been very helpful in addressing the long-term maintenance needs at America's national parks over the past several years.

Cyclic Maintenance: We recommend \$160 for cyclic maintenance, a \$15 million increase above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. These efforts are critical to preventing assets from degrading to the point of needing repair. Performing regular maintenance will help prevent an increase in the number of deferred maintenance projects.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We urge a \$1.5 million fiscal year 2020 appropriation for the NPS Office of International Affairs. This funding would ensure that the United States can robustly engage in and support the World Heritage Program. Communities throughout the country are pursuing nominations of sites in their area to the World Heritage List, including Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio and Mount Vernon in Virginia. The Office of International Affairs is critical to shepherding advocates through the nominations process.

The administration proposed to consolidate the Southwest Border Protection Program into the Office of International Affairs program. We are very concerned that this change would mean that the Office of International Affairs will not have the resources necessary to fulfill its mission effectively.

NPS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

We recommend \$32 million in funding for the Heritage Partnership Program and our National Heritage Areas (NHAs). Through the use of public-private partnerships, NHAs support historic preservation, heritage tourism, and recreation. These programs collaborate with communities to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs.

BLM CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

We urge the Committee to appropriate \$20 million, a modest increase of \$3 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. The increase is necessary to fulfill the BLM's substantial workload requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act, for land use assessments (up to 13,000 per year) and inventory and protection of cultural resources. The increase would support surveys of sensitive areas, site protection and stabilization projects for sites vulnerable to unauthorized activities and damage due to fire, erosion and changing water levels. Increased funding would also support updated predictive modeling and data analysis to enhance the BLM's ability to address large-scale, cross-jurisdictional land-use projects. To support the effective implementation of the increased appropriation level, we further recommend that the Committee encourage the BLM to promote inventory information-sharing with State and Tribal historic preservation officers.

BLM NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

We urge a \$45 million fiscal year 2020 appropriation for the National Landscape Conservation System. An increase in base funding will prevent critical damage to 36 million acres of congressionally and presidentially designated National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Wild Scenic Rivers. Increased funding will ensure proper management and provide for a quality visitor experience.

We urge the Committee to reject the administration's proposed cuts to the Oregon and California Grants Lands programs, which would result in reduced visitor services, decreased maintenance and care of trails, and fewer educational and interpretive resources.

BLM LAND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

We urge the Committee to reject the administration's drastic cuts to the LWCF. Instead, we urge the Committee to continue increasing LWCF funding toward the full \$900 million from offshore mineral leasing revenues that is dedicated to the LWCF annually. Many of our country's most significant historic and cultural landscapes have been permanently protected through LWCF investments, including Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, and Hopewell Culture National Historic Park. In total, more than \$550

million has been invested to acquire historic sites and 137,000 acres in 162 NPS units.

Within LWCF funding, we urge the Committee to fund the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) at \$10 million in fiscal year 2020. Through public-private partnerships, the ABPP has helped communities to preserve more than 100 historic battlefields in 42 States and territories. In protecting the hallowed ground upon which so many Americans fought and died, the ABPP preserves a valuable part of our shared history.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES: ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

We request \$7 million for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), to fund its work to administer the rulemaking process for historic preservation law, assist in resolving conflicts from historic resource reviews, and provide advice on historic preservation.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

The Coalition urges the Committee to fund the NEA and the NEH at \$167.5 million in fiscal year 2020. Robust funding for the NEA and NEH is critical to communities across America. For example, support from the NEA has created programs like Arts and Shadows at the Shadows-on-the-Teche in Louisiana that put regionally-based artists in residence at the site, resulting in programming that attracted new audiences and served as a prototype for broader arts-focused programming that draws people to the town's commercial district. The NEA is also a collaborator in the Blue Star Museums program, which offers America's active duty military families free admission to more than 2,000 museums every summer. NEH support has brought teachers from around the country to learn about history in the places that it was made, and to carry those experiences back to their classrooms.

The Coalition is grateful to the Committee for the opportunity to offer its perspective on fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The Coalition stands ready to work with the Committee on finding common ground to achieve the fiscal year 2020 funding levels that will support and enhance historic preservation.

[This statement was submitted by Marion Werkheiser, Policy Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COALITION FOR THE DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski,
Chair

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
S-128 Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall,
Ranking Minority Member

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
S-146A Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

The undersigned members of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed request continued support for programs that are essential to protecting and restoring natural resources throughout the Delaware River Watershed, a 5-State region (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland) that drains into the Delaware River and Delaware Bay. The watershed serves as the drinking water source for more than 15 million people, or roughly 5 percent of the U.S. population in the densely populated Mid-Atlantic region. The Delaware River Watershed also generates \$25 billion in annual economic activity, including agriculture, recreation and eco-tourism, hunting and fishing, port benefits, commercial fishing, and it supports at least 600,000 jobs with over \$10 billion in annual wages.

Congress affirmed the importance of protecting the natural resources of the Delaware River Watershed when it passed, with bipartisan support and leadership, the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act in December 2016. The Act directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, a non-regulatory effort that leverages private investment, regional partnerships, and local knowledge to protect and restore the resources of the watershed. The Program was appropriated \$5 million in fiscal year 2018 and increased to \$6 million in fiscal year 2019, representing a critical investment in the future of our region.

To continue on the path toward a restored, and preserved watershed, critical for our regional economy and wildlife species, we respectfully request funding for the following programs in fiscal year 2020:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Delaware River Basin Restoration Program—\$10 million

The non-regulatory Delaware River Basin Restoration Program has at its centerpiece a grants program, the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund, launched in August 2018. The first round of funding was awarded to 25 worthy on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects throughout the watershed. Funded projects will conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve and maintain water quality, sustain and enhance water management and reduce flood damage, and improve recreational opportunities and public access in the Delaware River Watershed. To continue the success of this tremendously successful program, funding must be increased from the current fiscal year 2019 level of \$6 million to meet new project demands and adequately address the issues threatening the future of the watershed, such as polluted stormwater, overdevelopment, and habitat loss.

National Park Service—Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program—\$3.051 million

The Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program protects nationally significant rivers that flow through privately-owned or State-owned lands within the United States by preserving them in a natural, free-flowing condition. It engages private interests and all levels of government in studying, planning, and managing the rivers for the benefit of future generations. There are 400 miles of designated Wild and Scenic River in the Delaware River Watershed, including 60 percent of the Delaware River (New Jersey & Pennsylvania), the Maurice River (New Jersey), the Musconetcong River (New Jersey), and White Clay Creek Watershed (Delaware & Pennsylvania). This is the largest concentration of designated miles in a single watershed east of the Mississippi River. Partnership Rivers are managed locally, with the National Park Service providing support and funding via cooperative agreements. Providing full funding for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program ensures effective and efficient implementation of approved conservation plans, while providing equitable funding for newly designated rivers.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Park Service/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/U.S. Forest Service—Land and Water Conservation Fund—\$900 million

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) remains the premier Federal program to conserve our Nation's land, water, historic, and recreational heritage. LWCF funds support for an entire suite of conservation tools to address national, State, local, and regionally-driven priorities across the country. Over the last 50 years, the 5 States in the watershed have received over \$1 billion from this fund to support public lands including the Delaware River Watershed's 6 National Wildlife Refuges, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, other Federal sites, and hundreds of State and local parks. In addition, several open space projects in the region are currently pending LWCF funding, such as Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Northeast Connection Forest Legacy Programs, and Highlands Conservation Act projects. Support for public lands among the American public remains consistently and overwhelmingly strong and bipartisan. We respectfully request that LWCF is reliably and robustly funded to ensure that it plays the strongest possible role in revitalizing communities.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—Clean Water State Revolving Fund- \$5 billion and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund—\$5 billion

The Delaware River Watershed requires protective and well-resourced water infrastructure systems to overcome the challenges of aged and over-burdened systems. We respectfully request robust funding for programs and agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to ensure clean water is available to support businesses and communities affordably. The EPA estimates a need of \$384.2 billion for nationwide water infrastructure investments. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and the Drinking Water SRF help communities across the Nation address their local water infrastructure needs by providing low interest loans to local governments. Thus, the Coalition requests \$5 billion for the Clean Water SRF, tripling current fiscal year 2019 funding, and \$5 billion for the Drinking

Water SRF to dramatically improve water quality and protect human health in our region and across the Nation. We urge dedicating 20 percent of the Clean Water SRF funds for green infrastructure and innovation projects to improve stormwater management, which in turn mitigates flooding, improves water quality, and creates green space. These funds should be accompanied by Federal technical assistance to help States raise awareness of green infrastructure's benefits and build demand for green projects.

Thank you for considering our requests. Please contact Sandra Meola, Director of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, if you have any questions about our position on this or any other issues at Sandra.meola@njudubon.org.

Sincerely,

American Littoral Society	Lehigh River Stocking Association
American Rivers	Lighthawk
American Sustainable Business Council	Musconetcong Watershed Association
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	National Audubon Society
Appalachian Mountain Club	National Parks Conservation Association
Aquaschiocola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy	National Wildlife Federation
Association of New Jersey	Natural Lands Trust
Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)	New Jersey Audubon
Audubon Pennsylvania	New Jersey Conservation Foundation
Basha Kill Area Association	New Jersey Council of Trout Unlimited
Berks Nature	New Jersey Environmental Lobby
Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited	New Jersey Highlands Coalition
Bucks County Audubon Society	New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
Catskill Mountainkeeper	New Jersey Trout Unlimited
Christina Conservancy, Inc.	New York League of Conservation Voters
Citizens' Climate Lobby—Lower DE	New York State Council of Trout Unlimited
Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries, Inc.	Newtown Creek Coalition
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania	North Jersey RC&D
Conserve Wildlife Foundation	Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society Chapter
Darby Creek Valley Association	PennFuture
Delaware Canal 21	Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited
Delaware Electric Vehicle Association	Pennsylvania Land Trust Association
Delaware Highlands Conservancy	Pennsylvania Resources Council
Delaware Nature Society	Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Delaware Ornithological Society	Pocono Heritage Land Trust
Delaware Rural Water Association	Rancocas Pathways, Inc.
Ducks Unlimited	Riverfront North
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation	Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Inc.
Eastern Waters Council of Fly Fishers International	Shehawken Trout Unlimited
Environmental Justice Center of Chestnut Hill United Church	South Jersey Land & Water Trust
Environment New Jersey	Southeast Montco Trout Unlimited
Equinunk Watershed Alliance	The Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway Alliance
Forks of the Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited	The Watershed Institute
Friends of Cherry Valley	Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association
Friends of the Abbott Marshlands	Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership Inc.
Friends of Heinz Refuge	Trout Unlimited
Friends of the Upper Delaware River	University of Delaware Delaware Water Resources Center
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association	Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition
Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance of Levittown	Urban Promise/UrbanTrekks
Greentreks Network, Inc.	Valley Forge Trout Unlimited
Green Valleys Watershed Association	Water Defense
Isles, Inc.	Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley
Kirkwood Lake Environmental Committee	Western Pocono Trout Unlimited
Lake Hopatcong Foundation	White Clay Watershed Association
Land Conservancy of NJ	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Associa- tion

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COALITION FOR HEALTHIER SCHOOLS

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

The undersigned members of the national Coalition for Healthier Schools representing millions of K–12 school and childcare stakeholders, urge you to include in the fiscal year 2020 budget a \$65 million Healthy Schools Program at EPA. This represents \$1 per child enrolled in schools and childcare and is an increase to the President’s proposed EPA budget request of \$50 million for a similar annual program. Funds should be to advance EPA capacity and outreach activities to address healthier schools and childcare facilities for all children, as described in EPA’s March 2019 press release on the proposed new Program (see below):

EPA: “Protecting children’s health is a top priority for EPA, and this new funding would help school’s address poor and deteriorating conditions that can harm children’s health and stymie academic progress,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “This grant program would help schools, especially those in underserved communities, reduce exposures to environmental hazards, create healthier learning environments, and ensure children can reach their fullest potential.”

“The Healthy Schools Grant Program is a comprehensive environmental health grant program with the goal of identifying and addressing environmental health risks in and around schools that contribute to increased absenteeism and reduced academic performance. The program would provide a total of \$50 million for schools to identify, prevent, reduce and resolve environmental hazards including:

- reducing childhood lead exposure;
- reducing asthma triggers;
- promoting integrated pest management; and
- reducing or eliminating childhood exposure to one or more toxic chemicals in schools.

Eligible recipients would include State and local governments, federally recognized Tribal governments, and non-profit organizations.

As described by EPA, the Program should offer an array of cross-media planning and education and training grants at multiple levels and constituencies—national, regional, NGOs—and not be restricted to only States and Tribes. Relevant EPA offices that must be resourced and engaged are the Office of Air and Radiation/Indoor Environments Division, Office of Chemical Safety, Office of Research, Office of Water Quality, and Office of Children’s Health Protection. Importantly, either EPA or the appropriations bill text should identify the EPA office to lead the effort. In our combined decades of experiences, it should be an office with robust K–12 staff expertise and other resources. The Indoor Environments Division has the most relevant experience: a 25-year record of structured grant making and successful work with the States, Tribes, NGOs, and K–12 and childcare leaders and personnel.

We agree with Administrator Wheeler that every child—and especially the high-risk little learners—needs a healthful learning environment. Due to sustained cuts to EPA’s core offices and cuts by States to education over the last few years, fewer schools today than 10 years ago are actively addressing indoor air, mold remediation, and hazardous chemicals management. Furthermore, EPA’s critical guidance documents on energy saving and test score-boosting facility retrofits (better lighting, ventilation) and on siting of new facilities (away from flood zones, industrial facilities) have never moved into active use in the field, due chiefly to the absence of EPA grants.

The proposed program would not provide funds for school or childcare construction or maintenance. However, EPA can spur the education and training for those responsible for school and childcare facilities, as well as parents and others concerned for children’s well-being. A relatively small \$65 million annual investment by EPA should stress preventing small problems (roof leaks) from becoming expensive health threats (mold infestations) to children and personnel alike, and could yield big benefits in attendance and seat time that outweigh local costs. Prevention is better than remediation.

In 2017 America’s School Infrastructure earned a D+ from the American Society of Civil Engineers. In the same year, the Harvard Chan School of Public Health released a landmark report detailing how unhealthy school facilities damage children’s “health, thinking, and learning.” The Harvard findings are echoed in research previously produced by the University of Tulsa, University of California at Berkeley, and in countless other studies in the U.S. and across Europe and Scandinavia.

Every school day there are some 65 million children in schools and childcare facilities. The research has shown that

- indoor environmental exposures to pollutants can be more intense than outdoor exposures;
- educators are often unaware of how facility problems impact children;
- school and childcare facilities are filled with asthma triggers such as dusts, molds, chemical fumes, pests and pesticides, other contaminants;
- poor indoor school environments decrease attention, seat time, attendance, and test scores; and,
- poor indoor environmental quality increases asthma and other health complaints, thus increasing healthcare costs for children and school faculty and staff.

This Coalition's letter to the appropriators in 2018 urged that EPA's final budget include the allocations to various EPA offices based on \$1/child in schools and in childcare. We urge you again, in light of the President and EPA's recognition of these issues in the President's fiscal year 2020 Budget Request, to do the same over fiscal year 2019:

- \$35 Million for cross-agency Leadership and program implementation by EPA's Indoor Environments Division-Reducing the Risks of Indoor Air to advance healthy indoor environments in schools and childcare centers with guidelines, grants to the field, annual symposia, webinars, and to provide inter agency Federal leadership on school infrastructure concerns;
- \$5 million for EPA's Office of Children's Health to strengthen pediatric environmental health capacity to address children with suspected exposures in schools and child care settings;
- \$5 million for EPA's Drinking Water office to disseminate user-friendly guidance to key school and childcare stakeholders regarding lead in drinking and cooking water;
- \$10 million for EPA's Office of Chemical Safety to strengthen its guidelines and enforcements that address legacy toxics in schools such as asbestos, lead, PCBs, and pesticides, and to encourage the safe management and disposal of hazardous chemicals in schools;
- \$10 million for EPA's Office of Research to strengthen and expand its research into children's exposures in the school and childcare settings.

We urge the U.S. Senate to include \$65 Million over fiscal year 2019 in EPA appropriations for restoring and expanding EPA's proven healthy schools and healthy kids programs and annual symposia that educate schools and child care entities on how to site, design, maintain and operate buildings to prevent or address common problems, such as: indoor air pollution, dampness and molds, lead in drinking water and paint, pests and pesticides, hazardous chemical management, legacy toxics like PCBs, and more. The EPA programs also support public health services for children with suspected environmental exposures in these settings.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Community Action on Toxics	Children's Environmental Protection Alliance (AL)
American Public Health Association	Coalition for Environmentally Safe Schools (MA)
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America	Collaborative for High Performance Schools
Association of Asthma Educators (PA)	The Deirdre Imus Environmental Health Center at Hackensack UMC (NJ)
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO International)	Earth Day Network
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners	Education Law Center
Californians for Pesticide Reform	Empire State Consumer Project (NY)
Cancer Prevention Coalition for Los Angeles (CA)	First Focus
Center for Environmental Health	Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health (IL)
Child Care Aware of America	Green Schools National Network
Children's Environmental Health Center of the Hudson Valley at New York Medical Center and Maria Fareri Children's Hospital (NY)	Healthy Legacy (MN)
Children's Environmental Health Network	Health Promotion Consultants (VA)
	Health Resources in Action

Healthy Schools PA/Women for a
 Healthy Environment
 Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
 Improving Kids' Environment (IN)
 IPM Institute of North America
 Learning Disabilities Associations of
 America
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Arkansas
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Georgia
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Illinois
 Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Maine
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Maryland
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Minnesota
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Pennsylvania
 Learning Disabilities Association of New
 Jersey
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Oklahoma
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 South Carolina
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Tennessee
 Learning Disabilities Association of
 Texas
 Learning Disabilities Association of Utah
 Maine PTA
 Maryland Children's Environmental
 Health Coalition

Massachusetts Coalition for
 Occupational Safety and Health
 Midwest Pesticide Action Center
 The National Alliance to Advance
 Adolescent Health
 National Center for Environmental
 Health Strategies
 National Association of County and City
 Health Officials
 Nontoxic Certified (NY)
 Pesticide Action Network of North
 America
 Occupational Health & Safety Section of
 the American Public Health
 Association
 Ohio Public Health Association
 Parents for Students Safety (TN)
 Partners for a Healthier Community
 (MA)
 Pennsylvania Integrated Pest
 Management Program
 Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition (MA)
 Project Green Schools (MA)
 Regional Asthma Management and
 Prevention (RAMP—CA)
 Responsible Purchasing Network
 School-Based Health Alliance
 School Based Health Alliance of
 Arkansas
 Sierra Club
 South Texas Asthma Coalition
 Toxics Information Project (TIP—RI)
 Valley Community Healthcare (CA)
 Western New York Council on
 Occupational Safety & Health

INDIVIDUALS (affiliations for informational purposes only)

Rosemary Ahtuanguaruk, Nuiqsut (AK)
 Abbey Alkon, RN, PhD, UCSF (CA)
 Louis Allen, MD
 David Ammend, MD, NW Passage, (WI)
 Gary Arthur, Issaquah Educ. Assoc.
 (WA)
 Elgin Avila, MPH, Eq. Health Solutions
 Noam H. Arzt, PhD (CA)
 Kesha Baptiste-Roberts, PhD, MPH,
 Morgan State University (MD)
 Carl R. Baum, MD, Yale School of
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 Gloria E. Barrera, MSN, RN (IL)
 Chelsey E. Brown, MPH (LA)
 Carla C Campbell, MD, MS, FAAP,
 University of Texas at El Paso
 Beverly Chester, MPH (OH)
 David Chester, Capt. USMC (OH)
 Laurie Costello, MD (CO)
 Richard Crume, Env. Engineer (KY)
 Marcia Deegler, MS (MA)
 Amanda Farr, MPH (CA)
 Mary Gant, Green Science Policy
 Institute
 Augusta Gross, PhD (NY)
 Chip Halverson, ND, Northwest Center
 for Biological Medicine (OR)
 Katharine Hawkes, MPH (VA)
 Brent Ibata, PhD, JD, MPH, FACHE
 (FL)
 Tenaya Jackman, MPH (HI)
 Jyotsna Jagai, MS, MPH, PhD, Chair,
 APHA Environment Section (IL)
 Jazmine Kenny, MSPH (CA)
 Jerry Lamping, Take Care of Your
 Classroom Air (TX)
 Paul Landsbergis, PhD, MPH, SUNY
 Downstate Medical Center
 Patricia A. Lasley, MPH, Great Lakes
 Center for Children's Environmental
 Health (IL)
 Larry K. Lowry, Southwest Center for
 Pediatric Environmental Health (TX)
 Daniel Lefkowitz (NY)
 Jennifer Lam, MS, RDN (WI)
 Megan Latshaw, PHD, MPH (MD)
 Elinor Mattern, MPH (CA)
 Annika Montag, PhD, (CA)
 Virginia Mott (ME)
 Christina Olbrantz, MPH, Columbia
 University
 Larry K. Olsen, DrPH, MCHES (NM)
 Jerome A. Paulson, MD, FAAP,
 Emeritus, George Washington
 University Milken Institute School of
 Public Health

Suzette Phillips, MA (Washington, DC)	Evelyn Tejeda, MPH (GA)
Joseph Ponessa PhD, Rutgers University (NJ)	Joan K. Teach, PhD (GA)
Rachel Powell, PhD, MPH (GA)	Mariana Torchia (CA)
Marjorie Sable, DrPH (MO)	Theodora Tsongas, PhD, MS (OR)
Natalie R Sampson, PhD, MPH, UMI/ Dearborn (MI)	vity Jasmine Uysal, MPH (CA)
Chelsea Alexandra Schafer, California State University, Northridge (CA)	Jeff Vincent, PhD, UC Berkeley (CA)
Hani Serag, MD, MPH (TX)	Kim Whitmore, PhD, RN, UW/Madison (WI)
Craig Slatin, ScD, UMass/Lowell (MA)	Chelsea Schafer, MPH, CHES, Los Angeles Valley College (CA)
Lindsay Tallon, PhD, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Yolanda Whyte, MD, Whyte Pediatrics

CONTACT: Claire Barnett, Coordinator, Coalition for Healthier Schools, info@healthyschools.org.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COALITION SUPPORTING USGS
STREAMGAGE NETWORKS & MODERNIZATION
WATER DATA & SCIENCE PROGRAM FUNDING

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Udall:

As leaders in the undersigned organizations, we urge your support to enable the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), a Bureau in the Department of Interior (DOI) to fully support its streamgaging networks. These vital networks, managed within the USGS Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program, serve the national interest with continuous streamflow information at over 8,200 locations. But additions to these networks are needed to adequately manage the Nation's critical water supplies and infrastructure. The members of our organizations rely on the streamgage data and science that USGS produces and many of us represent active, cost-share partners in funding the data collection that Congress and the Federal agencies require.

Information from these valuable streamgages are utilized by water supply managers, water quality administrators, emergency responders, consulting engineers, recreationists and many others in forecasting and response during floods, droughts, and other extreme events, design of bridges and other infrastructure, energy generation, management of Federal lands, design and operation of Federal reservoirs and navigation infrastructure. These networks provide critical information to other bureaus of the DOI and to the Corps of Engineers, NOAA, EPA, USDA, and other Federal agencies, as well as providing information essential to congressional oversight and revision of many Federal laws, including the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and many interstate compacts and international treaties.

Federal Priority Streamgage Network: (formerly referred to as the National Streamflow Information Program, "NSIP"), was authorized by Congress in 2009, to operate and maintain a stable "Federal backbone" network of streamgages to meet five specific national needs for streamflow information at (1) interstate and international boundaries, (2) National Weather Service flood forecast sites, (3) outflows of major river basins, (4) "sentinel watersheds," needed to evaluate and anticipate the potential consequences of ongoing changes in American land use, water use, climate etc., and (5) national priority water-quality monitoring sites. Our national ability to collect sufficient water data at the needed locations to answer the necessary Federal, State, Tribal, local, business and NGO questions is seriously compromised by the insufficient funding for the Federal Priority Streamgage Network.

Today, less than 25 percent of the Federal Priority Streamgages are fully funded by the Federal Government. The USGS is unable to complete development of the Network, as Congress directed in 2009, without additional funding. Full implementation of the Federal Priority Streamgage Network is estimated at \$125 million. Requested Funding Level by this Coalition for Federal Priorities Streamgages is \$27.5 million for fiscal year 2020.

Cooperative Matching Funds: The USGS works with over a thousand partners Nation-wide (Federal, State, Tribal, local, and NGO) using Cooperative Matching Funds to jointly support USGS streamgages, many of which meet the criteria of the

Federal Priority network. This matching program, which began as a 50–50 program, has seen the non-Federal cost-share contribution increase from 50 percent to over 70 percent. Restoring this program to a 50–50 percent cost share is estimated to require \$70 million. Requested Funding Level by this Coalition for Cooperative Matching Funds for Streamgauge Network is \$33 million for fiscal year 2020.

Modernization of the Networks and Data Delivery: Much of the basic operations of the streamgaging networks is based on technology that is seven or eight decades old. Innovations are necessary to enable scarce dollars to effectively measure, monitor, and understand the Nation's water resources. The Next Generation (NextGen) Water Observation System exemplifies innovative data collection equipment and data delivery and the potential to support water prediction and decision-support systems for emergencies and daily water operations.

Next Generation Water Observation System: Our coalition very much appreciates Congress' support of this innovative program. Build-out of NextGen envisions focused monitoring in 10 basins nationwide to better calibrate modeling, thus improving the ability to estimate water supply in the Nation's many ungaged areas. The Delaware River basin was selected as the pilot basin, first of the 10 envisioned. The USGS's 10-year plan for implementation of Next Gen calls for \$7.8M/year in order to equip one additional basin per year. Requested Funding Level by this Coalition for NextGen Equipment for Implementation is \$7.8 M and for Operation and Maintenance is \$4.5 million for fiscal year 2020.

To fully capitalize on the robust data collected in the NextGen basins, modernization of data delivery is also required. Aging legacy software systems with a growing maintenance burden need to be updated to a robust and scalable IT water infrastructure that positions us for the future. This transformation is needed to enable management of new data and sensor networks, support integration of the best water data available from across multiple agencies and sectors, feed data and analytical products forward into the National Water Model, and ultimately provide feedback to optimize and evolve the system. The new system must deliver data and advanced model results through innovative online tools to meet the Nation's water challenges over the coming decades. Requested Funding Level by this Coalition for Modernization of USGS Data Management, Integration and Delivery Infrastructure is \$9.0 M for fiscal year 2020.

With your help, we hope that Congress will enable the USGS to fulfill its Water Resources Mission Area, including working toward full implementation of the Federal Priority Network, adequately funding the Cooperative Matching Funds for streamgaging and moving water science into the 21st century through much needed modernization upgrades.

We are happy to answer your questions or provide additional information; please contact any of us or Sue Lowry at the Interstate Council on Water Policy (Sue.ICWP@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



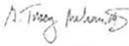
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director
American Canoe Association



Thomas W. Smith III, Executive Director
American Society of Civil Engineers



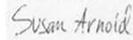
Dresden Farrand, Executive VP/CEO
American Water Resources Association



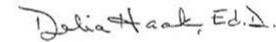
G. Tracy Mehan, III, Exec Director, Government Affairs
American Water Works Association



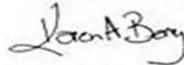
Mark Singleton, Executive Director
American Whitewater



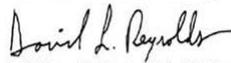
Susan Arnold, VP for Conservation
Appalachian Mountain Club



Delia Haak, Federal Commissioner and Chairman
Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission



Karen Berry, President
Association of American State Geologists



David L. Reynolds, Director of Federal Relations
Association of California Water Agencies



Julia Anastasio, Executive Director & General Counsel
Association of Clean Water Administrators



Jennifer Mock Schaeffer, Government Affairs Director
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies



Diane Van De Hei, Chief Executive Officer
Assoc of Metropolitan Water Agencies



Lori C. Spragens, Executive Director
Association of State Dam Safety Officials



Chad Berginnis, Executive Director
Association of State Floodplain Managers



Katherine H. Züsch, Executive Director
Atlanta Regional Commission



Don A. Barnett, Engineer-Manager
Bear River Commission



Bill Jennings, Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance



Timothy D. Feather, Vice President
CDM Smith



Chuck Clarke, CEO
Cascade Water Alliance



Glenn M. Page, General Manager
Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority



Steve Tambini, Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission



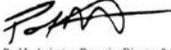
Darren Nichols, Executive Director
Great Lakes Commission



Brandon Hoffner, Executive Director
Henry's Fork Foundation



Kevin Lewis, Executive Director
Idaho Rivers United



Paul L. Arrington, Executive Director & General Counsel
Idaho Water Users Association



Carlton Haywood, Executive Director
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin



Brian Atkins, Chairman
Interstate Council on Water Policy



Rebecca Fong, Business Development Manager
KISTERS North America



Bryan T. Hopkins, Interstate Rivers Resources Center
Missouri Department of Natural Resources



Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies



Susan Gilson, Executive Director
National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies



John C. Fetterman, Deputy Executive Director
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators



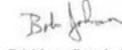
Steve Fitzgerald, President
National Hydrologic Warning Council



Linda Church Cicci, Executive Director
National Hydropower Association



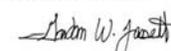
Dave Mitamura, Executive Director
National Water Supply Alliance



Bob Johnson, Executive Director
National Water Resource Association



Melissa Samet, Senior Water Resources Counsel
National Wildlife Federation



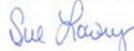
Gordon W. Fassett, Director
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources



Susan J. Sullivan, Executive Director
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission



April Snell, Executive Director
Oregon Water Resources Congress



Sue Lowry, Federal Commissioner and Chair
Red River Compact Commission



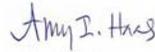
Chris Wood, President & CEO
Trout Unlimited



Gail Melgren, Executive Director
Southwest Missouri Regional Water Commission & Tri-State Water Resource Coalition



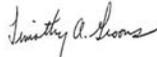
Andrew Dehoff, Executive Director
Susquehanna River Basin Commission



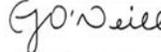
Amy Haas, Executive Director
Upper Colorado River Commission



Kirsten Wallace, Executive Director
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association



Tim Crooms, Marketing Director
Nylem Analytics North America



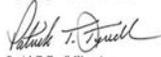
Eileen J. O'Neill, Executive Director
Water Environment Federation



Tony Willardson, Executive Director
Western States Water Council



Cory Toye, President
Wyoming Water Association



Patrick T. Tyrell, Wyoming
Yellowstone River Compact Commission

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Sen. Murkowski, Sen. Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks (Coalition) regarding the fiscal year 2020 Budget for the National Park Service.

I am a long-time member of the Coalition, including having served as the chair of the Executive Council for the past year. I retired from the National Park Service in 2013 after 8 years as superintendent of Blue Ridge Parkway, and a total of 41 years of government service with the NPS. My work with the Park Service included service as administrative officer at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Shenandoah National Park, and Yosemite National Park. I also served as associate regional director, administration, for the Southwest region, and as deputy superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains, including 3 years as acting superintendent.

The Coalition is comprised of more than 1,700 members who collectively have more than 40,000 years of experience managing and protecting national parks. We believe that our parks and public lands represent the very best of America, and advocate for their protection.

National parks host millions of visitors annually who come to enjoy the spectacular natural, historic, and cultural resources that the parks preserve. The National Park Service also touches the lives of even more of our citizens through a number of grant and technical assistance programs, which facilitate the preservation of our Nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources in a partnership between the National Park Service and hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout the country.

This work would not be possible without regular, annual appropriations from Congress to support over 23,000 employees and 400,000 volunteers who are dedicated to preservation and guiding the enjoyment of these special places. The Coalition is relieved that the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill for the National Park Service was finally enacted after the long, partial Federal Government shutdown. We are particularly pleased to see that Congress rejected the large budget cuts presented by the administration and, instead, produced a bipartisan Department of the Interior Appropriations Act as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which provided \$3.22 billion for NPS, which is \$20 million above the amount from fiscal year 2018, and \$521 million above the president's request.

We are pleased that there is an additional \$6.2 million for more park rangers, for we fully appreciate that more rangers are needed to ensure that the needs of park visitors are met and that park resources are protected. Also, we are glad to see fixed costs being provided to NPS so that park and program office staffing levels do not suffer further erosion because they have to absorb these costs within their existing budgets. And we welcome inclusion of modest amounts of funding for newly established parks to ensure that protection and visitor services are established as soon as possible at these sites.

Further, we welcome the continued support of the construction program and the Centennial Challenge funds as a means of addressing the deferred maintenance

backlog. Additionally, the support provided for historic preservation programs and our heritage areas will help maintain both park resources and significant structures found throughout the country.

The Trump administration's fiscal year 2020 budget proposes a 14.9 percent cut to the National Park Service budget, when compared to the appropriations enacted by Congress for fiscal year 2019. It represents an enormous threat to the protection and preservation of our national parks, which are suffering from significant reductions in staffing due to decreased annual appropriations in the past decade. Effectively managing the high visitation at our parks is proving more and more challenging with funding that has not kept up with the National Park Service's costs. And, the backlog of deferred maintenance projects continues to grow.

We continue to hear so much discussion about the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service that we worry that the deferred maintenance backlog is the only issue facing the NPS that gets attention from members of Congress and the public. Accordingly, our goal is to encourage comprehensive understanding about what is needed to protect the important natural, historic, and cultural resources under the care of the Park Service, as well as what is needed to provide for a quality visitor experience. Clearly, adequate levels of annual appropriations are required to ensure the best possible visitor experience, to ensure that irreplaceable resources are protected, and to address the maintenance backlog.

Even with the increased appropriations provided during the last two fiscal years by this subcommittee, parks are not yet able to achieve these basic purposes. Parks still suffer from significant reductions in staffing over the past decade due to decreased annual appropriations over that time period. To put this in perspective, appropriations for the National Park Service were \$3.275 billion in fiscal year 2009, a full 10 years ago. This is \$53 million more than was just appropriated for NPS in fiscal year 2019. With inflation increasing by 17.3 percent since 2009, the NPS would need \$3.84 billion in appropriations this year just to stay even with inflation. Thus, the Coalition requests NPS appropriations be increased by \$565 million in fiscal year 2020 to bring the NPS back to the level of services the agency provided back in fiscal year 2009.

NPS annual appropriations must be spread thinner as Congress continues to increase the responsibilities given to the Park Service through the addition of new parks and programs. Over the last 10 years, NPS has been directed to manage 27 new parks, 5 more national trails, 5 new wild and scenic rivers, and to coordinate assistance for 3 new affiliated areas and 9 national heritage areas, along with 8 grant programs. Park visitation remains high with 331 million people visits in 2016, with an estimated \$18.2 billion economic impact in local gateway regions. While this record-breaking attendance was no doubt fueled by the Centennial celebration, and was slightly lower in 2017, it is clearly a reflection of the importance that these special places have in the mind of the American public. Effectively managing these demands is proving more and more challenging with funding that has not kept up with the Park Service's costs.

While operational needs are absolutely essential, NPS continues to have a large land acquisition backlog. At the end of 2016, an estimated \$2.1 billion was identified as necessary to purchase privately owned lands within current park boundaries that have been identified in land protection plans. These properties represent the minimum interest necessary to protect resource values within the park. Unfortunately, this administration has adopted a freeze-the-footprint goal, which blocks acquisition of key parcels and leaves them vulnerable to incompatible development. And this policy remains in place even though \$900 million a year is being placed in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) solely for land acquisition purposes and at a time Congress has just permanently reauthorized LWCF.

In a similar manner, a number of historic structures across the country are in danger of being lost because of inadequate appropriations from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). As required by law, \$150 million a year goes into this fund; but appropriations have not kept pace with the need.

Likewise, the NPS relies on partnerships with a number of groups and organizations, including educational institutions, to carry out cooperative agreements, technical assistance, and grant programs. Unfortunately, grant programs are constantly targeted for reductions or elimination during the annual budget request process, which contributes to uncertainty among many long-standing partners.

While the modest increase in appropriations for construction in the fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act will put a dent in the deferred maintenance backlog, funding remains inadequate to reduce the backlog in a meaningful way. With a backlog of \$11.6 billion, more needs to be done. Half of this backlog is the result of thousands of miles of roads, bridges, and other supporting structures that

are in dire need of repair. The highly publicized needs at the Arlington Memorial Bridge are just one example of this backlog.

And it is this large group of assets, with many being decades old, which has contributed to the rising maintenance backlog. With more visitors coming to the parks, this only puts additional stress on the structures found in the parks.

Unfortunately, the backlog of facility restoration and maintenance needs continues to grow in the absence of adequate funding. And we know that repairing park buildings and other assets will mean nothing if annual funding is not adequate to maintain them. We also know that over the last several years, funds dedicated to recurring maintenance needs have not kept up, resulting in further backsliding in addressing the backlog. There are projects ready to go all across the country. Completing these projects with an infusion of funding could make an immediate and tangible difference in the parks.

The National Park Service had previously estimated in its fiscal year 2017 budget that \$400 million a year was needed to restore and maintain in good condition all of its highest-priority non-transportation assets within 10 years. Because it is unlikely that annual appropriations will increase by this much, the National Park Service needs a dedicated source of funding to address the backlog. Similar to the structure of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund, the Coalition believes a dedicated source of revenue for a maintenance backlog fund is required, such as that being proposed in the Restore Our Parks Act. There will be no reduction in the backlog if such a revenue stream is unreliable from year to year. And this revenue must be in addition to current annual appropriations and not supplant annual funding.

Finally, the Coalition remains very concerned about the proposed reorganization of the Department of the Interior initiated by former Secretary Zinke. We are told that the new Secretary Bernhardt will continue to pursue this very costly scheme despite presenting no reasonable rationale why such a reorganization is needed. In our view, it is unfortunate that the recently enacted appropriations bill provided some initial funding requested for the reorganization.

We are reassured, however, that you have prohibited the department and its bureaus from implementing any part of a reorganization that modifies regional boundaries currently in effect until you have received a reprogramming request that details the anticipated efficiencies and cost-savings, a description of anticipated personnel impacts, and funding changes anticipated to implement the proposal. The Coalition is convinced the administration has not presented any good rationale for pursuing such a reorganization for the National Park Service and we urge you to continue to oppose any reprogramming request for this purpose as a waste of money that can be better used to support the numerous needs of the Park Service outlined above.

We recognize the challenges the subcommittee confronts in providing appropriations for all of the programs under its jurisdiction. We are committed to working with you in helping to ensure sufficient resources are available for our national parks to fulfill the mandate enacted by Congress to protect the resources of the parks unimpaired for future generations, while also making them available for the public to enjoy.

That concludes my statement. I would be glad to respond to any questions you might have.

[This statement was submitted by Philip A. Francis, Jr.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COLORADO FOREST AND WATER ALLIANCE

Members: Colorado Water Congress, Colorado Timber Industry, The Nature Conservancy, Club 20, and Watershed Health Investment Partners

Senator Lisa Murkowski, *Chair*
 Senator Tom Udall, *Ranking Member*
 U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
 Environment and Related Agencies
 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Udall:

As you consider the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to urge you to provide full funding in line with the 2018 Farm Bill for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

(CFLRP). As communities across the country struggle with the impact of severe fire seasons, now is the time to expand this vital forest program.

Since its enactment in 2009, CFLRP has had a proven track record of success in bringing collaboration to our forests to increase forest health, mitigate wildfires, and support rural economies and local voices. CFLRP requires various local stakeholders to collaborate, resulting in stronger relationships on the ground, better projects, and a decreased risk of conflict and litigation.

To date, 23 CFLRP projects in 14 States have sold more than 2.5 billion board feet of timber; created \$1.4 billion in local labor income; and improved 760 miles of trails for sports enthusiasts and recreation. On average, CFLRP creates or maintains 5,400 jobs each year at current funding levels—a number that would likely increase if funding is expanded. In addition, CFLRP has reduced the risk of megafires on more than 2.9 million acres.

Because of this bipartisan program's successful track record, the 2018 Farm Bill (Public Law 115-334) doubled the size of its funding authorization. There is interest across the country in establishing new collaborative projects as well as sustaining current projects. As the national conservation on forest management continues, it is imperative that we invest in programs that reduce conflict in our forests and increase the number of logs sent to mills.

As you draft the Fiscal Year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fully fund CLFRP. Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

Travis Smith for
Colorado Water Congress

Aaron Citron for
The Nature Conservancy

Mark Shea for
Watershed Health Investment Partners

Molly Pitts for
Colorado Timber Industry Association

Cindy Dozier for
Club 20

cc: Senator Cory Gardner
Senator Michael Bennet

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM

TO: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, *Chairwoman*
The Honorable Tom Udall, *Ranking Member*
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

SUBJECT: Continued Funding for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program under BLM's Aquatic Habitat Management Sub-Activity (formerly known as the Soil, Water and Air Program)

FROM: Don A. Barnett, *Executive Director*
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum

DATE: May 10, 2019

Waters from the Colorado River are used by nearly 40 million people for municipal and industrial purposes and used to irrigate approximately 5.5 million acres in the United States. Natural and man-induced salt loading to the Colorado River creates environmental and economic damages. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has estimated the current *quantifiable* damages at about \$454 million per year. Congress authorized the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) in 1974 to offset increased damages caused by continued development and use of the waters of the Colorado River. Modeling by Reclamation indicates that the *quantifiable* damages would rise to approximately \$574 million by the year 2035 without continuation of the Program. Congress has directed the Secretary of the Interior to implement a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In the past BLM has funded these efforts through its Soil, Water and Air

Program and now they will be funded under the new Aquatic Habitat Management sub-activity. BLM's efforts are an essential part of the overall effort. A funding level of \$2.0 million for salinity specific projects in 2020 is requested to prevent further degradation of the quality of the Colorado River with a commensurate increase in downstream economic damages.

EPA has identified that more than 60 percent of the salt load of the Colorado River comes from natural sources. The majority of land within the Colorado River Basin is federally owned, much of which is administered by BLM. In implementing the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act in 1974, Congress recognized that most of the salts in the Colorado River originate from federally owned lands. Title I of the Salinity Control Act deals with the U.S. commitment to the quality of waters being delivered to Mexico. Title II of the Act deals with improving the quality of the water delivered to users in the United States. This testimony deals specifically with Title II efforts. In 1984, Congress amended the Salinity Control Act and directed that the Secretary of the Interior develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM. In 2000, Congress reiterated its directive to the Secretary and requested a report on the implementation of BLM's program (Public Law 106-459). In 2003, BLM employed a Salinity Coordinator to increase BLM efforts in the Colorado River Basin and to pursue salinity control studies and to implement specific salinity control practices. BLM is now working on creating a comprehensive Colorado River Basin salinity control program as directed by Congress. In January 2018 BLM issued *A Framework for Improving the Effectiveness of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, 2018-2023*. This document lays out how BLM intends to implement Colorado River Basin salinity control activities over the next 5 years. Meaningful resources have been expended by BLM in the past few years to better understand salt mobilization on rangelands. With a significant portion of the salt load of the Colorado River coming from BLM administered lands, the BLM portion of the overall program is essential to the success of the effort. Inadequate BLM salinity control efforts will result in significant additional economic damages to water users downstream.

Concentration of salt in the Colorado River causes approximately \$454 million in quantified damages and significantly more in unquantified damages in the United States and results in poor water quality for United States users. Damages occur from:

- a reduction in the ability to reclaim and reuse water due to high salinities in the water delivered to water treatment and reclamation facilities,
- a reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use to meet the leaching requirements in the agricultural sector,
- increased use of imported water and cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycling water in the municipal sector,
- a reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector,
- an increase in the cost of cooling operations and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector,
- an increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector,
- a decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector, and
- difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins.

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) is composed of gubernatorial appointees from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The Forum is charged with reviewing the Colorado River's water quality standards for salinity every 3 years. In so doing, it adopts a Plan of Implementation consistent with these standards. The level of appropriation requested in this testimony is in keeping with the adopted Plan of Implementation. If adequate funds are not appropriated, significant damages from the higher salinity concentrations in the water will be more widespread in the United States and Mexico.

In summary, implementation of salinity control practices through BLM is a cost effective method of controlling the salinity of the Colorado River and is an essential component to the overall Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. Continuation of adequate funding levels for salinity within the Aquatic Habitat Management sub-activity (formerly the Soil, Water and Air Program) will assist in pre-

venting the water quality of the Colorado River from further degradation with a commensurate significant increase in economic damages to municipal, industrial and irrigation users. A modest investment in source control pays huge dividends in improved drinking water quality to nearly 40 million Americans.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

TO: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, *Chairwoman*
The Honorable Tom Udall, *Ranking Member*
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

SUBJECT: Continued Funding for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program under BLM's Aquatic Habitat Management Sub-Activity (formerly known as the Soil, Water and Air Program)

FROM: Christopher S. Harris, *Executive Director*
Colorado River Board of California

DATE: May 9, 2019

This testimony is in support of fiscal year 2020 funding for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) associated with those activities that assist in the implementation of Title II of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-320), as amended. This long-standing successful and cost-effective salinity control program in the Colorado River Basin is being carried out pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act and the Clean Water Act (Public Law 92-500). Congress has directed the Secretary of the Interior to implement a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM funds these efforts through its Soil, Water and Air Program and now they will be funded under the new Aquatic Habitat Management Sub-Activity. BLM's efforts are an essential part of the overall effort. A funding level of at least \$2.0 million for salinity specific projects in 2020 is requested to prevent further degradation of the quality of Colorado River water supplies and increased economic damages.

The Colorado River Board of California (Colorado River Board) is the State agency charged with protecting California's interests and rights in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. In this capacity, California participates along with the other six Colorado River Basin States through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), the interstate organization responsible for coordinating the Basin States' salinity control efforts. In close cooperation with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and pursuant to requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Forum is charged with reviewing the Colorado River water quality standards every 3 years. Every 3 years the Forum adopts a Plan of Implementation consistent with these water quality standards. The level of appropriation being supported in this testimony is consistent with the Forum's *2017 Plan of Implementation*. The Forum's *2017 Plan of Implementation* can be found on this website: <http://coloradoriversalinity.org/docs/2017%20Review%20-%20FINAL.pdf>. If adequate funds are not appropriated, significant damages associated with increasing salinity concentrations of Colorado River water will become more widespread in the United States and Mexican portions of the Colorado River Basin.

The EPA has determined that more than 60 percent of the salt load of the Colorado River comes from natural sources. The majority of land within the Colorado River Basin is federally owned, much of which is administered by BLM. Through passage of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act in 1974, Congress recognized that much of the salts in the Colorado River originate on federally-owned lands. Title I of the Salinity Control Act deals with the U.S. commitment to efforts related to maintaining the quality of waters being delivered to Mexico pursuant to the 1944 Water Treaty. Title II of the Act deals with improving the quality of the water delivered to U.S. users. In 1984, Congress amended the Salinity Control Act and directed that the Secretary of the Interior develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM. In 2000, Congress reiterated its directive to the Secretary and requested a report on the implementation of BLM's program (Public Law 106-459). In 2003, BLM employed a Salinity Coordinator to coordinate BLM efforts in the Colorado

River Basin States to pursue salinity control studies and to implement specific salinity control practices. BLM is now working on creating a comprehensive Colorado River Basin salinity control program as directed by Congress. In January 2018 BLM issued *A Framework for Improving the Effectiveness of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, 2018–2023*. This document lays out how BLM intends to implement Colorado River Basin salinity control activities over the next 5 years. Meaningful resources have been expended by BLM in the past few years to better understand salt mobilization on rangelands. With a significant portion of the salt load of the Colorado River coming from BLM-administered lands, the BLM portion of the overall program is essential to the success of the entire effort. Inadequate BLM salinity control efforts will result in significant additional economic damages to water users downstream.

It has been more than 44 years since the passage of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, and much has been learned about the impact of salts in the Colorado River system. Currently, the salinity concentration of Colorado River water causes about \$450 million in quantifiable economic damages in the United States annually. Economic and hydrologic modeling by Reclamation indicates that these economic damages could rise to nearly \$600 million by the year 2035 without continued implementation of the Program. For example, damages can be incurred related to the following activities:

- A reduction in the ability to re-claim and reuse water due to high salinities in the water delivered to water treatment and reclamation facilities;
- A reduction in the yield of salt-sensitive crops and increased water use to meet the leaching requirements in the agricultural sector;
- Increases in the volumes of imported water required;
- Increased costs of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water in the municipal and industrial sectors;
- A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, and other household appliances, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the municipal and industrial sectors;
- Increased costs of cooling operations and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sectors;
- Increases in the use of water and cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;
- Decreased life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sectors;
- Increasing difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions; and
- Increased desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins.

The Colorado River is, and will continue to be, a major and vital water resource to the nearly 20 million residents of southern California, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties. The protection and improvement of Colorado River water quality through the continuation and expansion of an effective salinity control program will avoid, or reduce, additional economic damages to water users in California and the other States that rely on Colorado River water resources.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS, AND NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
 Appropriations Subcommittee on
 Interior, Environment and Related
 Agencies
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
 Appropriations Subcommittee on
 Interior, Environment and Related
 Agencies
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our strong support for maintaining effective funding levels in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations process for essential wildfire risk reduction and protection programs within the USDA Forest

Service's (USFS) State and Private Forestry (S&PF) program area. The important work accomplished through the State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) programs¹ help decrease total Federal emergency wildland fire suppression costs and reduce the threat of fire to people, communities, and both public and private lands.

America's forests and forest-dependent communities are at risk from outbreaks of pests and pathogens, persistent drought, and the buildup of hazardous fuels. Urbanization and development patterns are placing more homes and communities near fire-prone landscapes, leading to more destructive and costly wildland fires, like those that burned more than 8 million acres in 2018 alone.

We thank you for your leadership in developing and securing a long-term wildland fire funding solution which will ensure that the USFS has the funding needed for both routine activities to local and State wildland fire preparedness and mitigation efforts as well as engage in emergency wildland fire suppression activities. This long-held goal of our organizations would not have been realized without your leadership and the work of this Committee. Additionally, our organizations thank you for providing additional funding to support the USFS wildland fire suppression and prevention accounts as well as increased funding for hazardous fuels mitigation on Federal lands and cross boundary areas for fiscal year 2019 appropriations.

The fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill can provide for both necessary wildland fire suppression and fire risk reduction activities that reduce firefighting costs in the long run. We appreciate this Committee's continued support for the SFA and VFA programs and encourage you to continue providing strong funding for these important programs.

SFA is the fundamental Federal mechanism for assisting States and local fire departments in responding to wildland fires and in conducting management activities that mitigate fire risk on non-Federal lands. The program helps train State and local first responders who are often first to arrive at a wildland fire incident, as well as equip them with the tools they need to put wildland fires out efficiently and safely.

For example, in fiscal year 2018 SFA provided over \$28 million in funding for hazardous fuels treatments, benefiting 1,065 communities in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). This funding led directly to the treatment of 49,400 acres of hazardous fuels, with another 184,808 acres treated with leveraged funding from partners. Additionally, roughly \$3.7 million in assistance was provided to conduct 3,882 risk assessments and complete fire management planning projects, supporting 2,873 communities. In fiscal year 2018, SFA funding assisted 12,829 communities through a variety of different activities, including funding for the training of 97,210 firefighters.

The localized support provided by SFA is crucial because most wildland fires (80 percent during 2017) burn within State and local fire department jurisdictions. Even when it comes to wildland fires on Federal lands, SFA-supported crews and apparatus are often the first to respond.

Our organizations are grateful for the Committee's decision to increase SFA funding to \$81 million in fiscal year 2019. However, additional modest increases in SFA funding will help expand wildland fire preparedness and mitigation capacity for State forestry agencies. Attacking fires when they are small is the key to reducing fatalities, injuries, loss of homes and cutting Federal firefighting costs. The need for increased funding for fire suppression on Federal lands has broad support. The need to increase fire suppression funding for State and private lands, where roughly 80 percent of wildland fires occur, and where many fires that impact Federal lands begin, is just as urgent. In fiscal year 2020, we urge you to provide \$87 million for the State Fire Assistance program.

The VFA program provides support to rural communities and is critical to ensuring adequate capacity to respond to wildland fires, reducing the risk to communities, people, homes and property, and firefighters. This capacity is critical because these State and local resources are the first responders to more than 80 percent of wildland fires—whether on State, Federal or private lands. According to the USFS, during fiscal year 2018, the VFA program helped provide assistance to 13,959 communities, train 21,868 firefighters, expanded or organize 48 fire departments, and purchase, rehabilitate, or maintain nearly \$11 million in equipment. Our organizations greatly appreciate the Committee's work to increase VFA funding to \$17 million in fiscal year 2019. In fiscal year 2020, we urge you to provide no less than \$18 million for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program.

¹ The President's Budget proposed renaming these programs National Fire Capacity and Rural Fire Capacity respectively.

We appreciate the difficult task the Committee faces in the current budget climate. It is important to remember, however, that these vital programs safeguard human life, habitat, and property, and reduce the overall cost of wildland fire management. Accordingly, we urge you to support funding for these critical programs. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION FUND

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, thank you for this opportunity to submit outside witness testimony on behalf of The Conservation Fund (TCF). TCF supports a funding request of \$600 million in fiscal year 2020 for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which includes the Federal land acquisition programs of the Bureau of Land Management (\$45 million), National Park Service (\$75 million), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$85 million), U.S. Forest Service (\$100 million), as well as three State grant programs: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (\$35 million); National Park Service's State Assistance Grants program (\$130 million); and the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program (\$100 million). TCF also supports a funding request for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (\$45 million); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Programs (\$90 million); National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Program (\$3 million); the U.S. Forest Service's Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (\$10 million); and the Department of Interior's (DOI) Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (\$10 million). TCF requests funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (\$300 million) and Chesapeake Bay Program (\$80 million).

At The Conservation Fund, we make conservation work for America. We are a nonprofit environmental organization, working to create conservation solutions that make economic sense. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we have worked in all 50 States since 1985 to protect over 8 million acres of land. We applaud the leadership of this subcommittee over many years to appropriate funds to acquire lands for future generations, working forests, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and many other benefits.

As the subcommittee crafts its Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, there are several key programmatic funding recommendations we respectfully request you to consider, listed below.

1. *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$600 million.*—LWCF represents a promise to the Nation that proceeds from offshore oil and gas development will help protect the public trust. The requested \$600 million for LWCF in fiscal year 2020 will foster that mission, with the goal of soon securing the authorized funding level of \$900 million per year.

Funding at \$600 million in fiscal year 2020 is critical for the Nation's premier conservation program, a bipartisan agreement nearly 55 years ago. The Conservation Fund applauds Congress for passing bipartisan, bicameral legislation that permanently reauthorizes LWCF, which was signed into law by the president on March 12, 2019. TCF also urges Congress to work in a similar fashion to provide full, mandatory funding (at \$900 million) for the land conservation program.

Since 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has protected some of America's most important natural and historical treasures. From national parks, fish and wildlife refuges, to working farms and ranches, and State and local parks, LWCF continues to yield tremendous land protection outcomes in communities nationwide. LWCF's land acquisition programs provide critical resources needed to safeguard vital lands from potential development, expand public access, and protect wildlife habitat. LWCF projects are driven by private landowners seeking to work with Federal land units and state partners to sell their property for conservation purposes.

- A. *Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land Acquisition at \$45 million.*—The BLM and its National Conservation Lands provide some of our Nation's best recreation and historic areas. TCF partners with BLM on projects ranging from expanding sportsmen's access to Blue Ribbon fishing on the North Platte River in Wyoming to recreational access to the Upper Snake/South Fork ACEC SRMA in Idaho. In fiscal year 2020, we request \$45 million to fund BLM's land acquisition program and projects.

- B. *National Park Service (NPS) Federal Land Acquisition at \$75 million.*—Hosting more than 330 million visitors every year, the 419 National Park units provide an economic boost to their local communities and those employed directly and indirectly. Funding for NPS LWCF will help protect key access points for recreation, historic areas, trails and more, including at Little River Canyon National Preserve in Alabama and the Chesapeake Bay's Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. We respectfully request \$75 million to fund NPS's land acquisition program and projects.
- C. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Land Acquisition at \$85 million.*—National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) are our Nation's protectors of clean water, clean air, abundant wildlife and world-class recreation. Funding for fiscal year 2020 FWS LWCF will help protect critical wildlife habitat, provide public access and recreation, and improve water quality at Refuges, including Texas' Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge; as well as preserving our Nation's working lands, such as at Montana's Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area. We respectfully request \$85 million to fund FWS's land acquisition program and projects.
- D. *U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Land Acquisition at \$100 million.*—USFS LWCF funds help with forest management by protecting key inholdings and reducing fire threats. From Minnesota's Superior National Forest-Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness to the Appalachian Mountain's Cherokee (TN), Pisgah (NC), George Washington-Jefferson (VA), and Chattahoochee (GA) National Forests, we are working with willing landowners at priority project areas and respectfully request \$100 million to fund USFS's land acquisition program and projects.
- E. *LWCF State Grant Programs: FWS-Cooperative Endangered Species Fund, NPS-State Conservation Grants, and USFS-Forest Legacy.*—We encourage the subcommittee to fund:
- FWS.—Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: \$35 million (for the LWCF-funded portion)
 - NPS.—State Assistance Grants program: \$130 million
 - USFS.—Forest Legacy Program: \$100 million
2. *DOI and USFS Conservation and Land Acquisition Programs.*—TCF encourages the Committee to fund:
- FWS.—North American Wetlands Conservation Fund at \$45 million
 - FWS.—State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Programs at \$90 million
 - NPS.—Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Program at \$3 million
 - USFS.—Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program at \$10 million
3. *Department of Interior—Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program at \$10 million.*—The Restoration Program leads the national response for recovery of natural resources that have been injured or destroyed because of oil spills or releases of other hazardous substances. Recoveries from responsible parties can only be spent to implement restoration plans developed by the Trustee Council for each incident. These funds are one hundred percent private and represent the amount needed to restore environmental resources or compensate for lost public use since the damage in question. The fiscal year 2020 funds would allow the Program to add carefully targeted staff allocated to Interior bureaus and offices through its Restoration Support Unit to accelerate restoration activities.
4. *Environmental Protection Agency Programs.*—TCF encourages the Committee to fund:
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) at \$300 million.*—TCF urges funding of GLRI at \$300 million. The Initiative provides critical support for on-the-ground restoration and conservation programs and projects targeted at the most significant environmental problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem.
 - Chesapeake Bay Program at \$80 million.*—TCF urges funding of the Chesapeake Bay program at \$80 million. This program brings together a diverse partnership to support the Bay's restoration.

The Conservation Fund stands ready to work with you to secure full and consistent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and the other critically important programs that help protect the environment, economies, forests, and community values across our Nation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and your consideration of our request.

[This statement was submitted by Kelly Reed, Vice President of Government Relations.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE FOR REFUGE ENHANCEMENT

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee:

The National Wildlife Refuge System stands alone as the only Federal land and water conservation system with a mission that prioritizes wildlife and habitat conservation alongside wildlife-dependent recreation. Since 1995, the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) has worked to showcase the value of the Refuge System and to secure a strong congressional commitment for conserving these special landscapes.

Found in every U.S. State and Territory, national wildlife refuges conserve a diversity of America's environmentally sensitive and recreationally vital ecosystems, including wetlands, coasts, forests, prairie, tundra, deserts, and oceans, and provide Americans with an opportunity to encounter and engage with these areas.

We ask that the Committee provide a funding level of \$586 million for the Operations and Maintenance accounts of the National Wildlife Refuge System for fiscal year 2020.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of CARE's 23 member organizations, which represent over 16 million American hunters, anglers, bird and wildlife watchers, scientists, managers, and concerned citizens passionate about wildlife conservation and related recreational opportunities.

American Birding Association	National Wildlife Refuge Association
American Fisheries Society	Safari Club International
American Sportfishing Association	The Corps Network
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	The Nature Conservancy
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	The Wilderness Society
Defenders of Wildlife	The Wildlife Society
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Izaak Walton League of America	Trout Unlimited
Marine Conservation Institute	U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
National Audubon Society	Wildlife Forever
National Rifle Association	Wildlife Management Institute
National Wildlife Federation	

INADEQUATE FUNDING-CHALLENGES TO THE REFUGE SYSTEM

The Refuge System budget, at \$487.7 million, is now \$96.6 million below the level needed to keep pace with inflation and fixed costs (\$584.3 million), relative to the fiscal year 2010 budget of \$503.2 million. At least \$8-10 million appropriations increase is required each year just to keep pace with inflation and fixed costs, and these budgets are going in the wrong direction.

Workforce has declined since the high staffing point in 2011 by 645 positions through attrition. Those employees provided services such as administration, maintenance, fire management, wildlife management, and research support. That is a loss of nearly 1 out of 7 refuge positions. As a result, refuge staff struggle to maintain habitat, while also providing adequate visitor services, environmental education, and access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation. No refuges today are fully staffed, and in fact, nearly half of refuge units (282) are completely unstaffed.

An additional problem with lack of funding is the System's inability to provide for ongoing maintenance costs, which only compound and become more expensive with time. At Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR in Florida, the invasive species issues are overwhelming the refuge. In the last 12-15 years, Loxahatchee has struggled with invasive Lygodium, with initial costs of \$2 million a year to restrict uncontrolled spread. Now, the refuge needs roughly \$5 million a year for 5 years in order to control this weed, with costs having doubled or tripled.

Unfortunately, inadequate funding threatens the System's ability to carry out its mission, which is mandated by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. For example, in Region 3, which includes the Great Lakes States, there are 296 current positions, down from their height of 346 staff in fiscal year 2010. Based on optimal staffing models, the region is 100 staff short. This shortage of staff has caused problems across the region: visitor centers prioritize hours for peak visitation and are closed many days. There is no ability to do restoration work on lands they have or have acquired. There are fewer Federal wildlife officers. Maintenance of public use facilities such as parking lots and bathrooms has dwindled, particu-

larly on Wildlife Management Areas, and approximately 20 percent fewer are mowed. At the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls, MN, the director position has been vacant for 2 years, and the city is questioning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's commitment to the center. The loss of managed hunts, such as youth hunting programs and hunts for the disabled, has been dire. Many such hunts have not been held for years.

This dire funding situation can be seen across the other seven regions.

Between fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2013, Refuge System funding was reduced by \$50 million—a 10 percent cut. Even with increased budgets in fiscal year 2019 to \$487.7 million, the Refuge System continues to function at unsustainable levels. CARE estimates that the Refuge System needs at least \$900 million in annual operations and maintenance funding to meet conservation targets, including wildlife management, habitat restoration, and opportunities for public recreation.

Inadequate numbers of Federal wildlife officers (by some measures, the number of FWOs should be three to four times higher than current numbers) imperil healthy habitat and the safe and enjoyable visitor experience. The 'lucky' refuges still have one or two employees per refuge or refuge complex doing work such as environmental education, biology, or maintenance work. Yet many other refuges sit for years with unfilled, critical positions.

In Region 6, which stretches from Colorado to the Prairie Pothole Region, retention of staff is a major problem. Biologists are in short supply, and regional headquarters staff struggle to get biologists out to each refuge at even a fraction of the needed time. In 2014, they had 63 full time farm maintenance staff, now only 49—a 25 percent reduction. They currently have ten refuge law enforcement positions open, and cannot fill them because of the combination of low pay and benefits with the very rural locations. At the same time, they're looking to increase usage on refuges, such as hunting and fishing. Elk National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming is 24,700 acres, and one FWO is stationed there—and he shares time at BLM lands as well.

Without significant increases in funding, there is simply no room left to trim positions and still maintain at least a portion of those services—they will simply disappear, and school programs or ongoing maintenance will end. And refuges will continue to close.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM: STATISTICS AND VISITORS

The National Wildlife Refuge System, established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, protects approximately 840 million land and marine acres on 567 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts in every State and territory in the U.S., and 5 marine monuments in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. These acres are part of the Refuge System and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed (with some marine acres co-managed with NOAA). From the Virgin Islands to Guam to Alaska to Maine, the Refuge System spans 12 time zones and protects America's natural heritage in habitats ranging from arctic tundra to arid desert, boreal forest to sagebrush grassland, and prairie wetlands to coral reefs.

A refuge is within an hour's drive from most metropolitan areas, enabling the Refuge System to attract a growing number of visitors each year (55.8 million in fiscal year 2018, up from 46.5 million in fiscal year 2013) and provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, kayaking, hiking, and outdoor education. Americans are visiting refuges in increasing number for the wild beauty and recreational opportunities they provide.

CARE welcomes recreational use of our Nation's refuges. The "Big 6" uses of the Refuge System—hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, photography, environmental education, and interpretation—were enshrined into law in the 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. Refuge visitors generate \$2.4 billion annually to local and regional economies—on average returning \$4.87 in economic activity for every \$1 appropriated—and support 35,000 U.S. jobs.¹ In addition, refuges provide major environmental and health benefits, such as filtering storm water before it is carried downstream and fills municipal aquifers; reducing flooding by capturing excess rainwater; and minimizing the damage to coastal communities from storm surges. Refuges generate more than \$32.3 billion in these ecosystem services each year, a return of over \$65 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress.²

¹ *Banking on Nature*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 2013, <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/refugereports/pdfs/BankingOnNature2013.pdf>

² *The Economics Associated with Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources Conservation, and Historic Preservation in the United States*, Southwick Associates, October 2011, [https://www.fws.gov/refuges/news/pdfs/TheEconomicValueofOutdoorRecreation\[1\].pdf](https://www.fws.gov/refuges/news/pdfs/TheEconomicValueofOutdoorRecreation[1].pdf)

CARE REQUESTS \$586 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

We acknowledge that this request would mean a dramatic \$98 million increase. However, with the effective \$96 million decrease in funding since fiscal year 2010, the Refuge System has lost a great deal of conservation work and public use opportunities, all at a time when visitor numbers are increasing. If annual operations and maintenance funding does not rise substantially, CARE anticipates further impacts both within and outside of refuge boundaries, including:

- Loss of refuge law enforcement to the point where visitors and wildlife are not protected—the System is currently functioning with 22 percent of the FWOs needed. Six States currently have zero FWOs, and another 10 only have one.
- Further closures of visitor centers, elimination of environmental education programs that currently work closely with local schools, and a loss of visitor services staff, which would leave many States with no visitor services staff at all, such as Maine.
- Reduced quality of habitat for hunting. Over the past 2 years, the Department of the Interior has worked to add and expand hunt programs at refuges, providing additional opportunities for outdoor recreationists as part of the “Big 6”. These hunt expansions will require corresponding funding to keep up with the demand on Federal wildlife officers and on biologists and other staff responsible for keeping wildlife habitat and populations healthy.
- Reduced treatment of invasive plants, reducing habitat quality for wildlife (both game and non-game) and placing nearby private lands at higher risk of infestations.
- Decreased use of prescribed fire, which is used on refuges both to improve habitat for wildlife and to reduce hazardous fuels that pose a wildfire risk to nearby communities. This risk has been mitigated by the fire fix passed by the Congress this spring, but resources for prescribed fire still need to be in place on individual refuges.

The common denominator to all these challenges is a lack of funding. Adequate staffing and funding are critical to the maintenance of healthy wildlife populations and access for recreational users to a healthy ecosystem. Increasing funding for the System will empower and enable individual refuge units to deliver on-the-ground conservation that benefits not only wildlife and recreation, but also local communities across the Nation.

We ask that this Committee use a portion of its additional funding allocation in the budget deal finalized in January, and put it towards a substantial increase in Refuge Operations and Maintenance funding. CARE has a goal of seeing Refuge Operations and Maintenance funding reach \$900 million by fiscal year 2021, and a large increase in fiscal year 2020 would help us meet that goal.

We urge Congress to fund the Refuge System at \$586 million in fiscal year 2020—to bridge the growing gap between what the System needs and what it receives—enabling refuges to continue moving America forward as the world’s leader in wildlife conservation and restoration.

Our hope is that this level of funding will put the Refuge System on a path to full funding of \$900 million and help the System advance its mission to maintain refuge lands as intended in their purpose for the benefit of the American people, finalize outstanding Comprehensive Conservation Plans, and implement programs that will benefit both wildlife and people. The President’s Budget Request for fiscal year 2020 is \$509.5 million, which would be the highest amount ever appropriated to the Refuge System O&M. While we applaud the requested increase, more funding is needed.

On behalf of our more than 16 million members and supporters, CARE thanks the subcommittee for the opportunity to submit comments on the fiscal year 2020 Senate Interior Appropriations bill, and we look forward to more discussions with you regarding our request.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) is a consortium of 10 Tribal governments located along the Yukon River and its tributaries in north-eastern Alaska. The Gwich’in and Koyukon Athabascan peoples of the Yukon Flats live in remote villages, who united to form the Council: Arctic Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Canyon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Fort Yukon, Rampart, Stevens, and Venetie. Tribal leadership has clear vision: stable self-sufficient economies built upon strong local self-governance. Our organization provides a variety of services to the Tribal citizens of our region, including full healthcare services at the Yukon Flats Health

Center and village-based clinics in four of our Villages. We have Self-Governance agreements with the Fish and Wildlife Service and with the Bureau of Land Management.

CATG requests the following considerations be implemented in the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations cycle:

- Natural Resource Priorities*: Ensure Adequate funding for co-management.
- Expand Self-Governance*: Expand Self-Governance and fully fund Annual Funding Agreements with Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
- Section 105(l) Leases*: Support funding for healthcare facility leases under Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA).
- Budget Increases*: Support behavioral health increases to the IHS and BIA budgets.
- Advance Appropriations for IHS*: Support advance funding for the IHS and other Tribal programs.
- Contract Support Cost (CSC) Funding*: Support continued full and mandatory CSC funding for the IHS and BIA.

Natural Resources

The traditions of our grandparents live on through our ability to hunt and fish, which include the ceremonies that accompany these cultural practices. As Native peoples, access to our traditional food resources is critical for our culture, health, wellbeing, economic security and food sovereignty. The Council advocates for Alaskan hunting and fishing management policy and regulations to provide for Alaska Native food security, community wellbeing, and traditional ways of life. We ask for funding to protect Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights.

The Porcupine Caribou Herd are our relatives, they are the backbone of our culture, and they provide for our health, wellbeing, economic security, and food security. The Gwich'in Nation and the Council stand unified in our call for full protection of the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins," birthing grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd along the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge since 1988. Last year, Congress opened up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) through the budget process. The Council asks Congress to ensure meaningful government to government consultation, and participation by all impacted Tribes in all Federal actions related to the Porcupine Caribou Herd and their habitats.

Salmon are our relatives, they are the backbone of our culture, and they provide for our health, wellbeing, economic security, and food security. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has confirmed the importance of this critical resource, "the state's rural residents harvest approximately 22,000 tons of wild foods each year—an average of 375 pounds per person. Fish make up about 60 percent of this harvest Statewide. Nowhere else in the United States is there such a heavy reliance upon wild foods." CATG asks Congress to support Tribal co-management, through full funding of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Expand Self-Governance

CATG is proud to be one of the first Tribal consortium in the country to develop non-Department of the Interior (DOI) Self-Governance Annual Funding Agreements (AFA) for agencies other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). We remain concerned that DOI scopes of work are being limited and the original intent and practice of Self-Governance, which is to build Tribal capacity to take on increasing levels of responsibility, is not being properly carried out. We request your support to expand Self-Governance practice and agreements beyond BIA.

Since 2004, the CATG has had an Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) under Title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) with the USFWS. Through the AFA, the CATG has implemented selected PFSAs of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (YFNWR), namely: (1) Cooperative Moose Management Planning; (2) education and outreach programming; (3) harvest data collection and reporting; (4) logistical maintenance of the only logistical outpost in the Refuge; and (5) Refuge Information Technician staffing.

The AFA's success and growth has been limited by funding levels that have remained fairly static since the 1st agreement was signed (estimated at \$60,000 annually), lacking funding for staff time to complete PFSAs and for contract support costs. We appreciate recent positive developments with YFNWR leadership in working to expand and fully fund the AFA, as it is a beneficial relationship for the YFNWR staff, the wildlife and habitat, and Tribal governments. At this time, it has

been demonstrated CATG needs to implement harvest data collection and reporting activities for adequate moose management. CATG has demonstrated its commitment to a successful working relationship with the YFNWR, and seeks to expand and fully fund the AFA. CATG asks Congress to ensure continued, fully funded, and expanded self-governance agreement with USFWS YFNWR.

In 2011, the CATG implemented the first self-governance AFA under Title IV of the ISDEAA with the Bureau of Land Management/Alaska Fire Service (BLM/AFS). The Council has demonstrated their commitment to running a successful Emergency Fire Fighter training and certification program ever since. But the 2018 Federal Government shutdown resulted in our BLM AFA getting hung up in the process, leaving CATG with substantial uncertainty. Announcements are now also coming late for contract work with BLM, and these are all jobs that our communities count on. The Council has developed a productive partnership with the BLM/AFS to more efficiently and effectively use government resources. The Council asks for Congress to ensure continued self-governance agreement with the BLM AFS through full funding, and we encourage Congress to facilitate BLM's cooperation in finalizing and implementing the AFA, and other contract work, within this fiscal year 2019, not simply kicking the can down the road to fiscal year 2020 as it relates to CATG.

Section 105(l) Clinic Leases

Tribes and Tribal organizations increasingly rely on section 105(l) leases to address chronically underfunded facilities operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. We are gratified that IHS has been funding Section 105(l) leases for Tribal health clinics. This responsibility was confirmed by the 2016 Federal court decision in *Maniilaq v. Burwell*, which held that section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides an entitlement to full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. We appreciate your supplemental appropriations in fiscal year 2019 for these costs, and we ask that funding continue to be made available for these important leases. This Committee has invited IHS to submit a report on the budget impact of meeting its responsibility. We oppose any appropriations rider, such as those included in the administration's budget proposals for fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019, which would allow IHS to avoid its responsibility to compensate Tribes fully for these costs. We ask that Congress again decline to include such a provision in the fiscal year 2020 IHS appropriation.

Budget Increases

CATG's communities in rural Alaska have extreme rates of suicide, alcohol and substance abuse; issues that contribute to a multitude of other adverse problems such as crime, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect. We have been encouraged by new funding to address the opioid crisis that impacts many of our communities. Thank you for the new \$10 million opioid grant program in the fiscal year 2019 IHS budget. However, frequently, Tribes in Alaska have difficulty working through the State of Alaska to provide behavioral and social services, which adds burdensome layers and undue regulation. We appreciate that HHS this year distributed the \$50 million in Tribal opioid funds via formula.

CATG believes that Tribes and Tribal organizations should receive behavioral funds directly, because programs that implement traditional cultural values have proven to be far more successful than those that do not. We ask for your support in this effort. CATG also asks for support in expanding the *Generations Indigenous (Gen-I)* initiative, which provides increased resources for Tribes to address youth behavioral, mental health and substance abuse issues, as well as expansion of the *Tiwahe Initiative*, designed to address the inter-related problems of poverty, violence and substance abuse faced by Native communities. We appreciate that last year Congress rejected the administration's proposal to reduce funding for this important initiative.

Advance Appropriations for IHS

We thank Ranking Member Udall, Representative Don Young, and Interior Appropriations Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce for introducing legislation to provide advance appropriations for IHS and in some of the bills, for the BIA and BIE. IHS healthcare is similar to Veterans healthcare in that both the VA and the IHS provide direct medical care and both are the result of Federal policies. Predictability, continuity, and certainty are essential for providing stable quality healthcare. This issue continues to be important to Alaska Native and American Indian patients, particularly in a budget climate of seemingly endless Continuing Resolutions (CR). When IHS funding is subject to a CR, as it has been repeatedly over

many years, Tribal healthcare providers receive only a portion of funding at a time, making it particularly difficult to implement long-range planning and to effectively use and leverage limited resources. Partial funding also requires the same processing and manpower for each incomplete payment as one full apportionment. Having advance notice of funding levels would greatly aid CATG and other Tribal health providers in program planning, recruitment and retention of essential healthcare professionals. Under advance appropriations, we would know a year in advance what the budget would be and it would resolve much of the uncertainty we have experienced because full appropriations were not enacted at the first of the Federal fiscal year. The IHS budget should be afforded the same status consideration as VA health programs.

Contract Support Cost (CSC) Funding

CATG would like to thank the House and Senate subcommittees for their leadership and commitment to fully funding CSC for IHS and BIA ISDEAA agreements. We appreciate the full funding of CSC over the past few fiscal years, that the funding is indefinite (“such sums as may be necessary”), and that the funding is in separate accounts in the IHS and BIA budgets. We request that the subcommittees continue to fully fund CSC. Such action is crucial to strengthening the ability of Tribal governments to successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities as sovereign nations.

Telecommunications Subsidies

As you know, Internet connectivity is critical to providing healthcare services to our remote villages. Last year you heard from us and other Tribes regarding the cap on Universal Service rural healthcare funds. We appreciate the work that was done to eliminate the cap.

Conclusion

CATG greatly appreciates your consideration of our requests outlined in this testimony. On behalf of our organization and all of the people we serve, I would be happy to provide any other additional information as requested by the subcommittees.

[This statement was submitted by Rhonda Pitka, Chief of the Village of Beaver, and Vice Chair of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DANCE/USA

Madam Chair and distinguished members of the subcommittee, I am grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Dance/USA, its Board of Directors and its 500 members. We strongly urge the subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in the Committee on Appropriations to designate a total of at least \$167.5 million to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for fiscal year 2020. This testimony and the funding examples described below are intended to highlight the importance of Federal investment in the arts, which are critical to sustaining a vibrant cultural community throughout the country.

The NEA is a great investment in the economic growth of every community. The NEA was established in 1965 with the mission to “strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation.” It has continued to meet this mission for over 50 years, recommending more than 2,300 grants in every Congressional District in the country in fiscal year 2018. Sixty-five percent of direct grants went to small (budgets under \$500,000) and medium sized (budgets between \$500,000 and \$2 million) organizations. Additionally, 40 percent of NEA-supported activities took place in high-poverty neighborhoods and 36 percent of NEA grants reached underserved populations, such as people with disabilities and veterans. Between 2012 and 2015, NEA-supported programs reached 24.2 million adults and 3.4 children on average each year through 80,603 live events.

Funding from the NEA continues to support arts organizations and their communities by providing a high return on investment. The ratio of private and other public funds matching every NEA grant dollar is approaching 9:1, generating more than \$500 million in matching supporting.

Before the establishment of the NEA, funding for the arts was mostly limited to larger cities. The NEA is the only arts funder in America, public or private, that

supports the arts in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Additionally, 40 percent of the NEA's program funds are distributed through State arts agencies, reaching tens of thousands throughout the U.S. NEA funding provides access to the arts in regions with histories of inaccessibility due to economic or geographic limitations.

At the national level, the arts and cultural sector contributed \$763.6 billion to the U.S. economy in 2015, 4.2 percent of the GDP, and counted 4.9 million workers who earned \$372 billion in total compensation. The tax-exempt performing arts organizations contributed \$9 billion to the U.S. economy and employed 90,000 workers, who earned \$5.6 billion in total compensation. Consumers spent \$31.6 billion on admissions to performing arts events.

Dance companies make communities healthier and more vibrant. Audiences across the U.S. have the opportunity to experience dance in many aspects of life. Professional not-for-profit dance is highly diverse in its artistic forms, covering genres and styles that include aerial, ballet, burlesque, capoeira, flamenco, hip hop, hula, jazz, kathak, liturgical, modern, physically integrated, and tap dance, in addition to fusions of these genres and styles and the incorporation into other artistic disciplines. Dance artists work with performing arts centers, businesses, park districts, community centers, schools, religious institutions, and many other groups to ensure this wealth of creative activity is widely accessible to the public.

Established in 1982 as the national service organizations for the professional dance field, Dance/USA's membership currently consists of more than 500 dance companies, dance service and presenting organizations, individuals, and related organizations.

—*Economic Impact:* Not-for-profit dance regularly generates more than \$700 million in economic activity across the country. In fiscal year 2014, reported annual expense budgets totaled \$755.5 million. Ensembles that reported expenses for wages and benefits on their 990s paid a total of \$372.4 million, which approximates to half (50.9 percent) of total aggregated expenses for these ensembles.

According to data compiled by the NEA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' U.S. Arts and Culture Production Satellite Account, the gross output from not-for-profit dance companies totaled \$972 million, while the value added to the GDP by dance companies is \$573 million.

Not-for-profit dance ensembles employed over 15,900 individuals in a mix of full-time and part time positions in fiscal year 14. These ensembles were further supported by more than 22,800 volunteers.

—*Communities Served:* According to the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), social dancing is the most common way Americans performed art in 2012. African Americans are the race/ethnic group more likely to dance in a formal setting, and Hispanics are the group most likely to dance socially. The rates of dance participation are highest for younger adults (18–34). Dance (other than ballet) is the only performing arts activity for which U.S. attendance rates at performances did not fall between 2002 and 2012. (Data from the 2017 SPPA research has not yet been fully released.)

—*Dance Works:* According to research conducted by Dance/USA, the dominant motivation for attending dance performances, representing 50 percent of those surveyed, is to be inspired or uplifted. Not-for-profit dance performances have the opportunity to bring communities together, supporting social and emotional needs of audience members.

NEA GRANTS AT WORK

NEA grants are awarded to dance organizations through its core programs: Art Works; Challenge America Fast Track Grants; and Federal/State Partnerships. In fiscal year 2018, the NEA awarded 163 grants to the dance field through the Art Works category, totaling \$3,920,000.

Below are just a few examples of the excellent initiatives that dance groups are engaged in, supporting artists, audiences, and communities.

Karen Peterson and Dancers

Miami, Florida

\$35,000

Karen Peterson and Dancers received support to re-stage and present choreographer Paul Taylor's "3 Epitaphs" by Valencia College students. Francie Huber, an award-winning principal dancer with the Paul Taylor Dance Company for 14 years and a teacher of modern dance and Taylor workshops, restaged the work. Outreach activities included master classes for high school students, open rehearsals, and discounted tickets.

National Institute of Flamenco
Albuquerque, New Mexico
 \$15,000

National Institute of Flamenco received support for residency activities for flamenco artists traveling from Spain to New Mexico. Through the Visiting Artist Line, NIF brings the world's finest professional flamenco artists, including dancers, choreographers, musicians, costumers, and design technicians for residencies in New Mexico that can last from eight days to four weeks. These guest artists interacted with local and national communities by teaching, providing professional development opportunities, performing, collaborating, creating new dance works, and facilitating international artistic networks.

Nashville Ballet
Nashville, Tennessee
 \$15,000

Nashville Ballet received funding to support the company premiere of Stephen Mills' "Light: The Holocaust and Humanity Project," and accompanying community engagement programming. The work was presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville as part of a larger community collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Nashville, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.

Axis Dance Company
Oakland, California
 \$20,000

Axis Dance Company received support for dance education and outreach programs for youth and adults with and without disabilities. AXIS offered a variety of educational opportunities in the Bay Area and on a national tour. Project activities included dance classes, professional-level dance training, teacher training, a choreographic lab for choreographers with disabilities, dance apprenticeships, community workshops, lecture-demonstrations, residencies, and open rehearsals and movement experiences for veterans.

Eugene Ballet
Eugene, Oregon
 \$15,000

Eugene Ballet received support for the premiere of "Peer Gynt," a multimedia ballet by choreographer Toni Pimble based on Henrik Ibsen's fairy tale play. In collaboration with designer Andy Warfel and video engineer and multidisciplinary artist Jessey Zepeda, the ballet included virtual theatrical scenery. Multimedia elements helped communicate the complicated narrative. Outreach and education programming included pre-performance discussions and lecture-demonstrations in rural schools.

Conclusion

Dance/USA is grateful for the \$2 million increase to the NEA in fiscal year 2019. The continued bipartisan support for the agency has continued to support artists and audiences, allowing dance and the arts to address critical issues, making communities healthier and more vibrant.

We urge you to continue toward restoration and increase the NEA funding allocation \$167.5 million for fiscal year 2020.

On behalf of Dance/USA, thank you for considering this request.

[This statement was submitted by Amy Fitterer, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DAVID JONAS BARDIN

USGS GEOMAGNETISM PROGRAM AND & MT SURVEY CONTINUATION

Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

Thank you for rejecting proposals to zero out the USGS Geomagnetism program in fiscal year 2018 and 2019.

I ask for \$4 million in fiscal year 2020. OMB proposes a program cut of 25 percent, which would lead USGS to mothball three of its 14 magnetic observatories—in Alaska, California, and Mississippi.

I support OMB's new \$1.726 million line for continuation of the magnetotelluric survey. (See USGS Energy and Mineral Resources program).

USGS researchers combine observatory detections of magnetic storms (“space weather” from the Sun) with MT survey data as they become available, finding “that risk varies considerably from region to region, with some electrically resistive rocks boosting the regional geoelectric hazard by a factor of a hundred.” See National Geographic, Solar storms can be even worse if you live near certain rocks: New USGS data show how cities have higher or lower risks of blackouts during a powerful sun storm depending on their regional geology (March 18, 2019).

GEOMAGNETISM PROGRAM

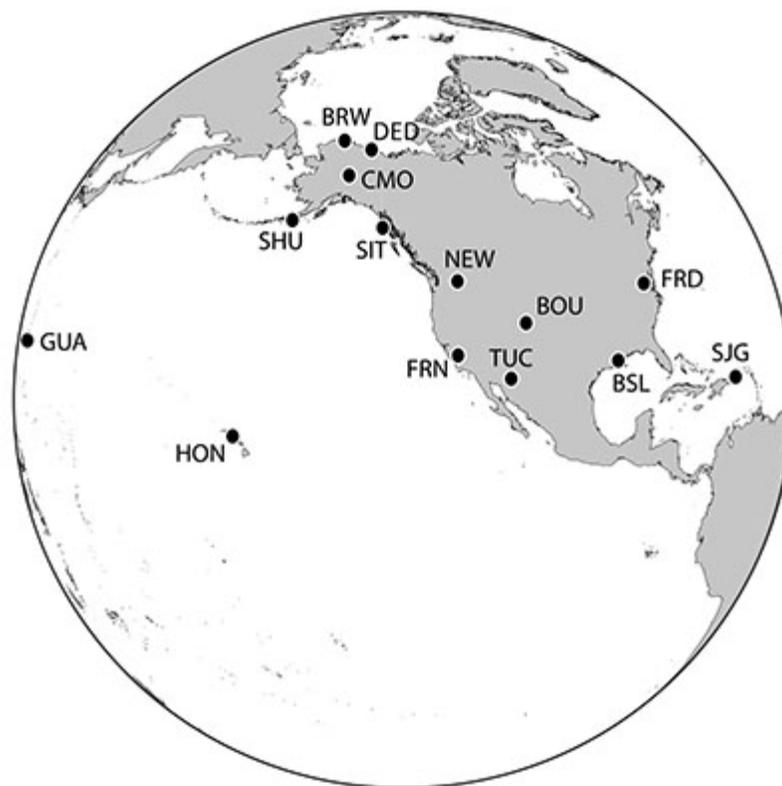
This program is underfunded: Congress has appropriated \$1.888 million every year since fiscal year 2013 when sequestration hit. In fiscal year 2012, it was \$2.004 million, in fiscal year 2011 it was \$2.097 million, in fiscal year 2010 it was \$2.138 million.

Moreover, the U.S. Air Force has decided to stop contributing to this program after 14 years—during which other agencies benefiting from USGS observatory data (such as NOAA) contributed nothing. (USGS will continue to give USAF and other agencies data—at no charge—to extent collected.)

USGS’s high-quality Geomagnetism program—vital to space weather predictions, electric power grid protection, civilian and military navigation (and more)—should expand rather than contract. “For both science and practical applications there are already too few permanent magnetic observatories” write our international partners (March 20, 2019, letter to USGS from Dr. Alan Thomson of British Geological Survey on behalf of INTERMAGNET and IAGA).

- Congress should fund entire program through USGS (in the Interior et al bill).
- Congress should add \$1.1 million to last year’s appropriation (\$650,000 to offset loss of USAF funding and \$450,000 to offset erosion of buying power, catch up on maintenance of all 14 existing observatories, and modestly to expand this program.
- Congress should enable USGS to operate permanent magnetometers to measure magnetic fields at each of its 14 observatories and to add permanent electrometers to measure electric fields directly at some (only Boulder now has an electrometer). See USGS observatory map, below.
- Congress should enable USGS to overcome insufficiency of magnetic observatories—especially in the vast Eastern electric power interconnection, home to most Americans (where USGS has only two observatories, one to be mothballed) and the Texas interconnection (where it has none).

Executive Order 13865 (March 26, 2019), § 5(c), directs the Secretary of the Interior to “support the research, development, deployment, and operation of capabilities that enhance understanding of variations of Earth’s magnetic field associated with [natural and human-made electromagnetic pulses] EMPs”, but OMB proposes to withhold Geomagnetism program resources essential to do that.



MT SURVEY

OMB's proposed MT survey continuation line (under Energy and Mineral Resources program) is reasonably scaled for fiscal year 2020. E.O. 13865, section 6(b)(iv) directs: "Within 4 years of the date of this order, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete a magnetotelluric survey of the contiguous United States to help critical infrastructure owners and operators conduct EMP vulnerability assessments."

Reference: Budget Justifications and Performance Information Fiscal Year 2020—USGS, pp. 49–50, 70–71.

[This statement was submitted by David Jonas Bardin.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Madam Chairman, Ranking Member and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record. Founded in 1947, Defenders has more than 1.8 million members and supporters and is dedicated to the conservation of wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

Our Nation's wildlife is caught up in the planet's sixth mass extinction, yet, in recent years, programs that preserve wildlife and habitat have been hollowed out by severely inadequate funding. The President's budget again includes a number of draconian cuts. Defenders urges the subcommittee to begin to rebuild our wildlife conservation framework by providing robust increases for these crucial programs, particularly given the additional funding that we hope will be available in the 403(b)-allocation given the fire funding fix that will go into effect in fiscal year 2020.

Defenders remains skeptical about efforts to reorganize the Department of the Interior by consolidating authority for administering diverse Interior agencies and we oppose the \$28 million requested for this purpose. Reorganization would reduce or eliminate the relative independence of agencies to manage and conserve land, waters, and wildlife in accordance with their individual statutory and policy mandates and would be detrimental to transparent and balanced decisionmaking and conservation of our natural resources. Relocating central offices to various western locales also would make them more prone to capture by development and resource extraction industries. We urge you to reject this proposal. We also have concerns which we specify later in our testimony regarding budget restructuring proposals for various agencies in the request.

While we appreciate that nearly all riders that threatened to undermine protections for imperiled species and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) were stricken from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, we urge that the subcommittee not continue the sage-grouse listing prohibition rider which has been included in the bill since 2014. The Trump administration has reversed course on the unprecedented and broadly supported initiative to conserve the sage-grouse. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must have all tools available to conserve the imperiled bird.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is our Nation's premier wildlife conservation agency yet the request proposes a 15.8 percent cut below the fiscal year 2019 level. The FWS needs significant increases to support recovery of threatened and endangered species; protection of migratory birds and fish, species of global conservation concern and other trust species; and prevention of both domestic and international wildlife crimes.

Ecological Services.—Recently, a coalition of more than 200 organizations sent a letter to Congress requesting a significant infusion of funds into the Ecological Services program to begin to address the extinction crisis, a total of \$486 million, nearly double the current level of \$251.8 million:

- Listing:* Several years ago, FWS developed a broadly supported workplan to allow for timely listing decisions on 350 species. Because of decreases to listing, FWS now has a backlog of 77 species with delayed listing decisions as well as 78 species in the workplan for 2020 for a total current listing backlog of 155 species. For FWS to meet these and other obligations under the listing budget, a total of \$51 million is needed annually, an increase of \$32.7 million over the fiscal year 2019 level. Species due for decisions include the Eastern Hellbender, the American Wolverine, the Humboldt Marten and the Yellow Banded Bumble bee. The President's request cuts the listing program by an unacceptable 39.3 percent.
- Recovery:* Currently, more than 480 listed species lack final recovery plans and another 500 plans will need to be updated in the next 5 years. Moreover, hundreds of listed species receive less than \$1,000 per year for recovery with many receiving no FWS funding at all. Congress should provide a minimum of \$50,000 per year per species for recovery to ensure no species slips through the cracks. For FWS to meet these and other obligations under the recovery budget, a total of \$196.7 million is needed annually, an increase of \$101.7 million.
- Planning and Consultation:* FWS conducts ESA Section 7 consultations on more than 10,000 Federal actions each year so that projects can move forward while minimizing harm to listed species. The program has been flat or declining since the early 2000's. To meet planning and consultation needs, including highly technical analyses on issues such as pesticides and to work with non-Federal stakeholders to develop Habitat Conservation Plans, \$130 million is needed annually, an increase of \$23.9 million over the fiscal year 2019 level.
- Conservation and Restoration:* At least \$8 million per year from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2025 is needed for the Candidate Conservation element of Conservation and Restoration to assist with early conservation action on the current 23 candidate species.
- Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program:* Defenders urges continued funding at no less than \$1 million for this program that assists livestock owners co-existing with wolves.

National Wildlife Refuge System.—Our National Wildlife Refuge System is the largest network of public lands and water in the Nation dedicated to wildlife conservation, unique in that it is one of the few places on the planet where wildlife comes first. The fiscal year 2019 level of \$488.3 million for Refuge System Operations and Maintenance (O&M) is \$96 million below the level needed to keep pace with inflation and salary increases relative to the fiscal year 2010 level of \$503.2

million. Defenders recommends \$586 million for O&M for fiscal year 2020, an increase of \$98 million over fiscal year 2019. The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, a broad coalition of 23 hunting, fishing, conservation and scientific organizations estimates at least \$900 million is needed annually for O&M.

Migratory Bird Management.—According to a 2018 report¹ at least 40 percent of bird species worldwide are experiencing declining populations. Despite this alarming fact, the Trump administration is moving to eliminate long-standing protections for migratory birds against incidental take. Defenders recommends a return to no less than the fiscal year 2010 level of \$54.5 million, an increase of \$8.1 million over the fiscal year 2019 level to support crucial survey and monitoring programs and for building resilience of bird species and their habitats.

Office of Law Enforcement (OLE).—We are extremely grateful that the fiscal year 2019 bill continued appropriated funding to support inspectors at ports of entry currently without personnel and we urge it be maintained. Defenders supports \$85 for million for fiscal year 2020, an increase of \$5.9 million over the fiscal year 2019 level to help OLE continue to address the crisis in the illegal global wildlife trade.

International Affairs.—Defenders supports \$18 million for fiscal year 2020, an increase of \$2.2 million, crucial in continuing to combat illegal wildlife trade and to build capacity in range countries.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation and Science Support.—We thank the subcommittee for again restoring funding for these two programs which the administration had zeroed out in its fiscal year 2019 request and has once again zeroed out. We recommend increases over current levels, returning to the requests made in the last Obama administration budget for fiscal year 2017 for \$17.8 million (an increase of \$5.3 million) and \$20.6 million (an increase of \$3.3 million) respectively. With these increases, FWS can continue to work to address complex challenges, such as climate change, across large landscapes and otherwise address scientific questions key to conservation of trust species.

Key Grant Programs.—Defenders supports: \$100 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund, an increase of \$54 million; \$6.5 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund, an increase of \$2.6 million; \$15 million for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, an increase of \$3.4 million; and \$70 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, an increase of \$5.4 million.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The U.S. Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are essential to the conservation of wildlife and habitat in the United States. The administration is proposing to consolidate nine National Forest System budget line items into a single budget line item. Defenders is concerned that such a consolidation, given this administration's narrow focus on timber production, could be devastating to wildlife habitat and watersheds. Under any scenario, Congress must reaffirm meaningful performance metrics for wildlife habitat, watersheds, and forest resiliency on FS lands. In addition, while Defenders was opposed to restructuring the BLM Wildlife and Fish activity into the new Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management activity approved in the fiscal year 2019 bill, we appreciate that specific funding for Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) was maintained and we urge the subcommittee to continue this specific funding. We also remain concerned about the level of accountability and transparency in allocating the T&E funding under the new structure. We ask the subcommittee to ensure that BLM reporting on the use of these funds is accurate and to make clear to the agency that T&E funding is to be used specifically to advance conservation and recovery of the 430 listed species and at least 31 candidate species found on BLM lands rather than to pay for Section 7 compliance which ought to be funded by the benefitting programs. In addition, Defenders requests that BLM be prohibited from using any funds on all oil and gas activities in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in fiscal year 2020.

BLM Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management.—Defenders opposes the 35 percent cut in the President's request which includes nearly a 50 percent cut to T&E funding. We urge \$200.8 million, an increase of \$18.3 million over the fiscal year 2019 level of \$182.5 million which includes a total of \$23.8 million for T&E, an increase of \$2.2 million over the fiscal year 2019 level. We also will be providing the subcommittee with some specific recommendations for report language and funding initiatives to help conserve the greater sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat which will be needed to help mitigate the damage likely to occur under the current administration's new sage-grouse plan amendments.

¹ https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BL_ReportENG_V11_spreads.pdf

BLM Renewable Energy.—Defenders supports the requested level of \$29.1 million, an increase of \$4.8 million over the fiscal year 2019 level to continue facilitating renewable energy development on public lands, while avoiding areas with natural resource conflicts, including sensitive wildlife species.

BLM Resource Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring.—Defenders opposes the 17.4 percent cut to this program in the request. We urge \$69.4 million, an increase of \$6.3 million over the fiscal year 2019 level of \$63.1 million to support crucial data collection and monitoring of ecological conditions and trends on the landscape as well as continued development of the Enterprise GIS.

FS Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management.—Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management has been essentially flat-funded since fiscal year 2014, yet the request cuts the program by an indeterminate amount. We support restoring funding to at least the fiscal year 2010 level of \$143 million, \$6 million over the fiscal year 2019 level to carry out critical conservation and recovery activities for the nearly 470 threatened and endangered species and 3,100 sensitive species that depend on FS lands and to help address the loss of biologists that has occurred in recent years.

FS Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring.—The request cuts this program by an indeterminate amount. Defenders supports maintaining funding at no less than the fiscal year 2017 level of \$182.9 million, \$2.9 million over the fiscal year 2019 level. Outdated forest plans lack effective habitat conservation and restoration strategies.

FS Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.—The request zeroes out the program, despite the 2018 Farm Bill’s doubling of authority to \$80 million, which Defenders supports.

FS Forest and Rangeland Research (FS R&D).—The request cuts R&D by 20 percent. We urge a return to the fiscal year 2010 level of \$245 million, \$22 million over fiscal year 2019, which included \$30.5 million for Wildlife and Fish R&D. Adequate funding for this program is crucial in providing relevant tools and information to support sustainable management of both Federal and non-Federal forest lands.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The U.S. Geological Survey provides the basic science for conservation of wildlife and habitat. We are extremely concerned about the proposal in the President’s budget to consolidate and substantially reduce funding for the Ecosystems and Land Resources activities.

National and Regional Climate Science Centers.—The request cuts the Climate Science Centers by 5.5 percent and proposes to “realign centers.” Given the magnitude of the climate crisis threatening our planet, the Centers should be maintained and funded at \$30.9 million, an increase of \$7 million and equal to the request made in the last Obama administration budget in fiscal year 2017 to support scientific needs in planning for climate change adaptation and building resiliency of ecosystems.

Ecosystems.—The request restructures and cuts this activity by 10.1 percent, including eliminating the Cooperative Research Units which Defenders opposes. Defenders urges funding at no less than the fiscal year 2017 request of \$173.9 million, \$17 million above fiscal year 2019 to help support development of crucial scientific information for sound management of our Nation’s biological resources.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The request slashes funding by 105 percent. We support phased in increases to LWCF to ultimately reach the fully authorized \$900 million level. These increases are needed to help to save some of the 6,000 acres of open space, including wildlife habitat, that are lost each day in the United States.²

[This statement was submitted by Mary Beth Beetham, Director of Legislative Affairs.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE DINE GRANT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

The Dine Grant Schools Association (DGSA) is comprised of the school boards of seven Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded schools which are operated pursuant to the Tribally Controlled Schools Act (Public Law 100–297) and located on the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico. These schools are: Black Mesa Community School; Dziłth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community Grant School; Hanaadli Community

² http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/coop_cross_boudaries.html

School/Dormitory, Inc.; Lukachukai Community School; Pinon Community School; Pine Hill Schools; and Shiprock Associated Schools, Inc.

Success through language, culture, community involvement, and high standards. As Tribal school boards, we have both the greater freedom and the tremendous responsibility to ensure that our students receive a quality and culturally relevant education that will help them reach their fullest potential. We believe that successful students know who they are, that they are valued, and that great things are expected of them. Our schools incorporate Navajo language and culture into our curricula. We set rigorous standards that our students must strive to meet and give them a sense of accomplishment at their achievements.

Why Federal funding matters. It is difficult to concentrate on school lessons if you are too cold or the roof is leaking or the water pipes do not function properly. It is difficult to take Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) online practice tests or take distance learning Advanced Placement classes with unreliable and slow Internet connections. It is difficult to ride the bus on unimproved roads and to a deteriorating school that has lingered on a replacement list because of lack of funding. These challenges to learning are prevalent throughout Indian Country. What has been different these past several years is an extensive change in understanding the extent of these challenges and a bipartisan support to address them. For this, we are deeply grateful to our partners in Congress.

Our highest funding priorities are: ISEP formula funds; Tribal Grant Support Costs; Facilities Operations and Maintenance; and the FACE Program in the BIE budget as well as Education Construction and Repair and Road Maintenance in the BIA budget. These programs make the greatest difference in our ability to educate our students.

Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) Formula Funds. The Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) Formula is the core budget account for Educational and Residential programs of the BIE elementary and secondary schools and dormitories. These funds are used for instructional programs at BIE-funded schools as well as salaries and benefits of teachers, educational technicians, other support staff and principals. For years, the amount appropriated for ISEP formula funds increased barely enough to cover fixed costs. We appreciate that Congress has provided program increases these past several fiscal years.

Impact. For most BIE-funded schools, the chronic shortfall in the other key school accounts has a negative impact on ISEP Formula funding, because ISEP Formula funds are often diverted to make up the shortfalls in other accounts, such as Facilities Operations and Maintenance, when a Tribe or Tribal school board has no other source of funding to satisfy those shortfalls. This means fewer funds are available for instructional activities. We are tremendously grateful that Congress has increased funding for these critical accounts so ISEP Formula funds can be used for their intended purpose.

Request. The \$1.28 million program increase for a total of \$404.2 million that Congress provided in fiscal year 2019 from fiscal year 2018 is very helpful, however, this total amount still does not acknowledge the shortfalls that have been building for many years. Therefore, we respectfully request an additional increase in ISEP Formula funding for fiscal year 2020.

Tribal Grant Support Costs. Since the 1988 Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization, tribally-operated elementary and secondary schools have received funding for the administrative expenses incurred for the operation of BIE-funded schools through an Administrative Cost Grant, now called *Tribal Grant Support Costs (TGSC)*. *Tribal Grant Support Costs are the Contract Support Costs for tribally controlled schools.* These funds are used for essential services such as contract/grant administration; program planning and development; human resources; insurance; fiscal, procurement, and property management; required annual audits; recordkeeping; and legal, security, and other overhead services.

Impact. We appreciate in that in recent fiscal years the Obama and Trump administrations have requested and Congress has committed to providing full funding for Tribal Grant Support Costs.

Request. We would like to express our appreciation for this bipartisan commitment to fully fund Tribal Grant Support Costs and express support for its continuation for fiscal year 2020.

Early Childhood or "FACE" Program. The Early Childhood and Family Development budget category commonly referred to as the "FACE" program is designed to (1) strengthen family-school-community relations, (2) increase parent participation in education, and (3) support parents in their role as a child's first and most important teacher. Many of DGSA's Member schools run successful FACE programs so we ask the subcommittees to once again reject any administration proposals to zero out this program.

Impact. The FACE program teaches essential skills to children that help make them kindergarten-ready, such as direction on how to hold a pencil, color, and write their name. There is a marked academic difference in outcomes for those children who have access to a FACE-funded program and those who do not. Further, these programs strengthen families and communities and help increase parent engagement. For example, parents who attend the FACE program are able to attain their GED and then go on to community college or training programs. Parents are also taught how to academically engage with their children, learning study skills and the importance of education. Families are another critical factor in whether children succeed academically.

Request. We respectfully ask that the subcommittees continue to reject any administration proposal to zero out this vital program and continue to provide adequate funding to support the FACE program for fiscal year 2020.

Facilities Operations and Maintenance. *Facilities Operations* funding is for the ongoing operational necessities such as electricity, heating fuels, custodial services, communications, refuse collection and water and sewer service. *Facilities Maintenance* funds are intended to provide for the preventative, routine, and unscheduled maintenance for all school buildings, equipment, utility systems, and ground structures. We appreciate that these budget categories have seen some increases in recent years. While the recent increases for these two budget categories are important improvements; we note that the fiscal year 2017 budget justification states that the \$66.2 million requested for *Facilities Operations* and the \$59 million requested for *Facilities Maintenance* would fund 78 percent of calculated *Facilities Operations* and *Maintenance* need across BIE-funded schools. Neither the fiscal year 2018 budget justification nor the fiscal year 2019 budget justification bothered to provide an estimate for what full funding would be. We also note that *Facilities Operations* and *Facilities Maintenance* are some of the last budget categories for primary and secondary schools that are still funded on a fiscal year schedule, rather than a forward funded (school year) basis. Continuing Resolutions and government shut-downs can wreak havoc when trying to carry out these activities.

Backlog. The Department of the Interior's fiscal year 2019 budget justification projected that by the end of fiscal year 2018, "68 percent of school facilities will be in good or fair condition." This projection still leaves 32 percent of school facilities for Indian students in "poor" condition. We also note that the fiscal year 2019 budget justification states that as of the first quarter of fiscal year 2018, there were "\$634 million dollars of deferred maintenance across BIE-school facilities and grounds." Accordingly, many BIE-funded schools are being written up for health and safety violations but have no money to make the needed changes. Schools are also being threatened with fines or being shut down. If schools do not have the needed facilities funds, they are forced to use education funds. Part of the maintenance problem will be resolved by replacing aging, deteriorated schools, but Federal resources for maintenance are needed to preserve that investment and to ensure our schools' facilities remain fully functional learning environments throughout the length of their design life.

Proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund or Other Related Funding Legislation. We sincerely appreciated that BIE-funded schools were included among the national parks and national wildlife refuges as eligible for repairs and improvements funding in the 2019 legislative proposal to establish the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. However, it is uncertain whether the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund will be proposed in the current legislative session and whether there would be sufficient congressional support for the *Public Lands Infrastructure Fund* to move forward. Alternatively, we are highly supportive of BIE-funded schools being included as eligible recipients for repairs and improvements funding in any Public Works, Public Infrastructure, or other related legislation proposed during the current congressional session.

Impact. There are numerous studies which attest to the fact that there is a close correlation between poor or inadequate facility conditions and poor student and staff performance. Because we cannot delay paying our utilities or avoid taking actions that would impact student safety, we often have to resort to using our other education or academic program monies—just like what happened when Tribal Grant Support Costs were not fully funded.

Request. We respectfully ask that the subcommittee provide full, consistent funding for *Facilities Operations* and *Facilities Maintenance* and transition these two budget categories to a forward funded (school year) budget cycle, just like the other core education accounts. In addition, we request that BIE-funded schools be included as eligible recipients of repairs and improvements funding in any Public Works, Public Infrastructure, or other related legislation in order to address the \$634 million maintenance backlog to BIE-school facilities and grounds.

Education Construction and Repair. This funding category within the BIA Construction budget includes *Replacement School Construction*; *Facilities Component Replacement*; *Facilities Improvement and Repair*; and *Employee Housing Repair*. According to the Department of the Interior, the current backlog of construction projects is estimated to be as high as \$1.3 billion. The BIE has stated that its “next-step” is to “develop a long-term school construction funding plan that will address the needs of all BIE funded schools determined to be in poor condition.” We were encouraged by the important increases that the subcommittees provided for Education Construction in fiscal year 2016 and then maintained in fiscal year 2017, and followed by more significant increases in fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 for which we are very grateful. Two DGSA Member schools are on the National Review Committee’s 2016 Replacement List: Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community Grant School is in the design phase and has issued an RFP for schematic designs while Lukachukai Community School completed the planning phase and is waiting for design phase funds. Given the state of school facilities across the BIE system, we ask that the subcommittees continue to appropriate the kind of funding levels for *Replacement School Construction* and *Facilities Component Replacement* which will make a meaningful impact on the school replacement lists.

Impact. Facilities within the BIE system are woefully outdated and, in some cases, dangerous for students and staff. Each year that the *Facilities Improvement and Repair* budget is underfunded, our facilities deteriorate more quickly. The lack of an appropriate learning environment in many BIE system schools puts Native students at an unfair disadvantage. In turn, the schools are then blamed for any low academic performance.

Request. We respectfully request that Congress and the administration consult with Tribes and Tribal school boards when developing this long-term school replacement and repair plan. Further, we ask that once developed, Congress implement this plan by providing consistent funding for Education Construction and Repair each fiscal year.

Road Maintenance. The subcommittees have highlighted the poor conditions and backlog of deferred maintenance of unpaved roads and bridges in Indian Country that are used by school buses to transport students. We would like to thank the subcommittees for attempting to hold the BIA accountable and for providing additional funding directed to these routes.

Request. We respectfully request that the subcommittees increase funding directed to these school bus routes for fiscal year 2020 and continue your efforts to hold the BIA accountable. As of this writing, we are not sure how or where these funds have been allocated.

[This statement was submitted by Marlene Watashe, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DR. ADAM SCHULTZ

AGENCY: UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1. *Account:* Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health
Program/Activity: Energy and Minerals/Mineral Resources/Magnetotelluric Survey
Fiscal Year 2020 President’s Budget Request: \$1,726,000
My Suggested Request: \$1,726,000
2. *Account:* Natural Hazards
Program/Activity: Geomagnetism
Fiscal Year 2020 President’s Budget Request: \$1,888,000
My Suggested Request: \$4,000,000

Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

The effects of space weather—charged particles emitted by the Sun—are felt at ground level, including disturbances in the geomagnetic field that cause anomalous geomagnetically induced electric currents (GICs) to flow through high-voltage electric power transmission lines, pipelines and other critical infrastructure. Such naturally occurring electromagnetic pulse (EMP) events, along with those generated by high altitude detonation of nuclear devices (HEMP) pose a critical threat to the U.S. economy, national security and the health and safety of the American people. Cascading failures of the most vulnerable of approximately 2200 high-voltage transformers underpinning the U.S. power transmission network can lead to large-scale, sustained power grid interruptions, profound economic, national security and societal impacts. Other risk factors include power grid voltage/frequency instabilities,

power interruptions, and premature ageing of critical infrastructure. This is recognized as a significant threat to our way of life, and efforts to assess and mitigate this high risk level have been encapsulated in the National Space Weather Action Plan and Strategy [NSTC, 2015; update 2019], Executive Order 13744 [Obama, 2016], Executive Order 13865 [Trump, 2019], FERC Orders 779, 851, NERC (North American Electrical Reliability Corporation) electric Transmission system standards TPL 007-1,2,3]. Among the enforceable standards, power transmission risk assessments must factor in the variations of the electrical conductivity of the geologic structures and materials beneath ground level, and power transmission system sensor and ground-level magnetic field sensor data must be acquired.

During the period 2006–2018 I served as the Principal Scientist responsible under National Science Foundation EarthScope Program support to execute a program of mapping the electrical conductivity variations in the crust and upper mantle beneath the conterminous U.S. and parts of the interior of Alaska in a region immediately north of Fairbanks. We employed a geophysical method (magnetotelluric method, or MT) that involves monitoring the natural changes in the electric and magnetic field measured at ground level at a grid of survey locations that returns information we can use to image the Earth's interior in a manner analogous to MRI or CT scanning in medical diagnostics. By mapping the changes in electrical conductivity below ground level, we can provide information on fundamental Earth processes, but we also provide information on ground conductivity that is essential to assessing and mitigating the risk of geomagnetically induced currents (GICs) in the power grid, in pipelines, and in other structures caused by space weather and by high-altitude electromagnetic pulse.



Figure 1. Locations at which measurements of the Earth's electric and magnetic field variations were recorded under the NSF EarthScope Program. Long-period MT station occupation time is typically ~3–6 weeks. MT equipment is then relocated to next available grid point in rolling array. Blue dots on almost regularly-spaced station location grid represent 1167 MT sites operated by Oregon State University (OSU) under NSF funding, under the direct oversight of Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS). Yellow dots represent 44 MT sites operated by USGS sites in part of FL; TN, AR, MO (not shown) and included in the open access EarthScope data base. Cyan dots represent MT sites acquired under other programs. Red dots represent 54 MT sites OSU is current acquiring in California under NASA funding. Yellow dots represent the permanent USGS and Natural Resources Canada magnetic observatories. Note: The USGS magnetic observatories in Fresno, California, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and Shumagin, Alaska become unmaintained as of April 22, 2019 as a consequence of USAF support for co-funding the USGS Geomagnetism Program ending.

Executive Order 13865 (March 26, 2019) directs that: “Within 4 years of the date of this order, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete a magnetotelluric survey of the contiguous United States to help critical infrastructure owners and operators conduct EMP vulnerability assessments.”

The \$1.725 million in the OMB fiscal year 2020 budget request for DOI/USGS, for the first year of a 4 year magnetotelluric survey called for in Executive Order 13865, is of critical importance to providing continuity of operations to the MT survey, which was executed by Oregon State University during the 15 years of the NSF EarthScope Program (now ended), completing it over approximately 2/3rd of the territory of the conterminous U.S. (Figure 1 above). In the course of executing that program of basic scientific research, it was discovered that the data returned was of great importance to assessing and mitigating the risk to the electric power grid and other critical infrastructure from the effects of Space Weather and Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP). The data returned from this effort has been adopted widely in efforts to assess and mitigate risk to the power grid from these threats. The fiscal year 2020 budget line initiates a 4-year program overseen by USGS to complete MT survey operations in the remaining “southern tier” of the United States.

While Executive Order 13865 specifies the completion of the survey in the contiguous U.S., this activity also lays the foundation in subsequent fiscal years for extending the MT survey to all regions of Alaska where assessing and mitigating space weather and EMP risk to the Alaska power transmission and pipeline networks is a priority.

Suggested Language Request: The committee recognizes risks to the Nation’s electric power transmission network, pipelines, and other critical infrastructure from geomagnetic field disturbances. The Committee provides \$1,726,000 to collect magnetotelluric observations of the Earth’s naturally occurring electric and magnetic fields in U.S. regions for which this data has not already been collected to inform the conductivity structure of the crust and uppermost mantle of the conterminous United States.

The second request:

I ask for your support to increase the U.S. Geological Survey Natural Hazards line request for Geomagnetism from \$1.888 million to \$4.0 million.

Executive Order 13865 (March 26, 2019) also directs the Secretary of the Interior to “support the research, development, deployment, and operation of capabilities that enhance understanding of variations of Earth’s magnetic field associated with [natural and human-made electromagnetic pulses] EMPs”, but OMB proposes to withhold Geomagnetism program resources essential to do that.

The geomagnetism program operates the Nation’s network of permanent magnetic observatories, which provide a continuous, high-quality stream of data on the geomagnetic field at ground level from a small set of stations within the conterminous U.S., as well as in Alaska, Hawaii and a small number of island stations. These data have proven essential to assessing and mitigating risk to the electric power grid and other critical infrastructure from the effects of Space Weather. These data are used in combination with the magnetotelluric survey data, and with sensors on the power grid to determine the level of geomagnetic disturbance due to solar activity. The intensity of geomagnetically induced currents in the power grid, pipelines and other structures is determined by the intensity of geomagnetic disturbance as it varies in time and space, and by its interaction with the electrical properties of the Earth’s crust and mantle beneath the electric power transmission grid.

The current set of only 7 USGS magnetic observatories in the conterminous U.S. is insufficient to accurately represent the true level of geomagnetic disturbance in every section of the conterminous U.S. electric power transmission grid, its pipeline networks, and in other critical infrastructure. The 5 USGS magnetic observatories in Alaska serve a similar role in an area of great magnetic field variation and intensity related to the auroral zone. The spatial scale of those variations throughout the U.S. is smaller than the distance between the magnetic observatories. It is necessary to double the number of permanent magnetic observatories in the conterminous U.S. in order to provide the required fidelity of data to assess and mitigate risk to critical infrastructure. It is necessary at a minimum to preserve the number of magnetic observatories in Alaska.

While \$1.888 million in the requested appropriation matches last year’s, this does not reflect a 25 percent cut in this program because the U.S. Air Force ended its contributions to this program in 2019. The impact on this decision to the USGS Geomagnetism Program is profound. Three permanent magnetic observatories are now slated to lose support by fiscal year 2020: Magnetic observatories in Fresno,

California; Bay St Louis, Mississippi, and Shumagin, Alaska. Reduction of the network of observatories will very badly impact our ability to assess and mitigate risk to critical infrastructure from space weather both in the conterminous U.S. and in Alaska.

By increasing this line to \$4.0 million, the three observatories at risk will be secured, and the number of observatories in the U.S. can be roughly doubled over a few years while catching up on deferred maintenance, providing important data to achieve space weather resilience goals.

Subcommittee: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Department: Interior

Agency: United States Geological Survey

Account: Natural Hazards

Program/Activity: Geomagnetism

Fiscal Year 2020 President's Budget Request: \$1,888,000

My Suggested Request: \$4,000,000

Suggested Language Request: The committee recognizes risks to the Nation's electric power transmission network, pipelines, and other critical infrastructure from geomagnetic field disturbances. The Committee provides \$4,000,000 to collect continuous, stable magnetic field observations in the conterminous U.S.; to support the existing network of such observatories currently operated by the U.S. Geological Survey, and to increase the number of such observatories in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Adam Schultz
(Professor of Geophysics, Oregon State University)
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PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE DUCKWATER SHOSHONE TRIBE

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe's requests for the fiscal year 2020 Indian Health Service (IHS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) appropriations are as follows:

- Assist the Tribe with our reservation expansion plans and self-governance project;
- Increase funding for Community and Economic Development in the BIA budget for development of renewable energy, conventional energy, and mineral resources;
- Increase BIA funding for road maintenance;
- Increase funding to the IHS Hospitals and Clinics line item, and direct the IHS to direct additional funding to pharmacy programs and physician services;
- Fund IHS in advance in parity with the Veterans Administration;
- Permanently reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians;
- Continue to fully fund Contract Support Costs for the IHS and BIA; and
- Increase funding for Welfare Assistance in the BIA budget.

Background

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in a remote, high desert valley in the State of Nevada, in the very northern tip of Nye County. The Tribe is governed by a democratically elected, five-member tribal council and is primarily an agricultural community. We offer a range of services to our tribal members, including healthcare and natural resources and environmental health programs. The Tribe operates a tribal health clinic under a self-governance agreement with the Indian Health Service under Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Reservation Expansion and Self Governance

Our reservation has recently been expanded by thirty thousand acres. In order to proceed with this project, we have requested the Bureau of Land Management, whose funding falls under the jurisdiction of this Committee, to complete a survey of the land. Despite repeated requests, the Bureau has not completed the survey. Further, for several years, the Tribe has been seeking a self-governance contract with BLM, and the agency has simply refused to respond to our requests for meet-

ings to begin negotiations for our Tribe to assume various BLM duties. We ask for any support in ensuring that BLM promptly responds to requests for engagement on this issue. The DST has submitted a self-governance compact funding proposal to the BLM.

Development of Renewable Energy, Conventional Energy, and Mineral Resources

We ask that this subcommittee increase funding for the “Community and Economic Development” activity in the BIA budget, particularly the “Job Placement and Training” sub activity, which funds technical and vocational training, and the “Minerals and Mining” sub activity, which promotes and provides technical assistance for the development of renewable energy, conventional energy, and mineral resources. As a rural Tribe, our members have less access to both employment and job creation opportunities than other citizens. We also struggle with high energy prices. These conditions are two factors hampering our ability to thrive as a community and we have been exploring a number of options to alleviate them. We have determined that we have viable wind and solar energy resources that can be developed to provide our Tribe with greater energy certainty, lower energy prices, and economic opportunities for our tribal members. If we in Indian Country are to build a strong economic future for our communities, we must pursue an “all of the above” energy strategy which for us, includes wind and solar.

Road Maintenance

The Tribe requests that Congress substantially increase the critically low funding for BIA road maintenance in fiscal year 2020. The fiscal year 2019 funding of \$35.8 million doesn’t begin to cover the costs of deferred road maintenance. The Tribe relies on miles of unpaved and unsafe roads to reach the distant communities where Tribe members work, attend school, and visit family. Due to the Tribe’s remote location, this is an urgent issue because the limited access to and from our reservation caused by the unmaintained and unpaved dirt road hampers our economic development and the ability of our members to access essential services, employment, education, and to visit family living off the reservation. As you know, the roads in Indian Country are some of the most dangerous and poorly funded roads in the Nation. We consider road maintenance funding to be a matter of public safety and we respectfully ask the subcommittee to increase appropriations for this critical budget sub-activity. Further, the Tribe would like to pave the 21 miles of unpaved, dirt road between our reservations in Duckwater, Nevada to the town of Eureka, Nevada in order to make it safe. While we understand that road improvement falls outside of the purview of this subcommittee, we would appreciate your support in increased Department of Transportation funds for such projects.

Increased IHS Funding For Pharmacy and Physician Services

The funding the Tribe receives through its Hospitals and Clinics funding is simply insufficient to serve the needs of the Tribe’s pharmacy patients. The Tribe’s pharmacy is currently not operating due to budget constraints, and the Tribe is forced to refer patients to pharmacies in nearby towns. The Tribe previously used its buy back authority to procure pharmacy services from the IHS through McKesson, but that proved prohibitively expensive.

Similarly, the Tribe has a similar concern about the funding made available through the IHS that the Tribe can then allocate to procuring physician services. The Tribe has been experiencing great difficulty over the past several fiscal periods in recruiting and retaining physicians for carrying out its primary healthcare programs.

There is just not enough funding for the Tribe to provide necessary services and still have adequate funding for pharmaceuticals and to pay physicians to locate to our remote area. Further, our costs required to provide adequate care to our members have risen by \$800,000 that is not covered by our IHS funding agreement, and the Tribe also spends approximately \$250,000 per year to provide healthcare services to members living off the reservation. We ask for the subcommittees’ support for increasing the IHS appropriation for Hospitals and Clinics funding, and to direct the IHS to allocate additional funding toward pharmacy and physician services.

Advance Appropriations for IHS

We appreciate the increased interest some members of Congress have shown for providing advance appropriations for IHS and Indian Affairs programs. Thank you to Interior Appropriations Ranking Member Udall, Representative Don Young, and House Interior Appropriations Chair McCollum for introducing, and Rep. David Joyce for co-sponsoring legislation to provide advance appropriations for IHS and programs in the BIA and BIE. With regard to the IHS programs, they should have parity with the Veterans Administration health accounts, which Congress had fund-

ed in advance since fiscal year 2010. Both IHS and the VA provide direct medical care, but they are not treated equally in the funding process. Predictability, continuity, and certainty are essential for providing stable quality healthcare. When IHS funding is subject to a Continuing Resolution, as it has been over many years, tribal healthcare providers receive only a portion of annual funding at a time, making it particularly difficult to implement long-range planning and to effectively use and leverage limited resources. Having advance notice of funding levels would greatly aid the Tribe in program planning, recruitment and retention of essential healthcare professionals in the same way that the VA is able to conduct such advance planning. The IHS budget should be afforded the same status consideration as VA health programs. Further, IHS appropriations should, like VA funds, be exempt from sequestration, should that occur again in the future.

Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)

The Tribe, like others throughout Indian Country, continue to support permanent reauthorization and increased funding for the SDPI, which provides crucial support for diabetes prevention and treatment programs. While an SDPI reauthorization bill is not under purview of this subcommittee, the SDPI and the programs carried out with SDPI funding affect the scope and range of our healthcare efforts and our IHS programs, which this subcommittee funds. The Tribe would greatly appreciate any help the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee members can provide with your colleagues on this matter. A permanent reauthorization with mandatory annual funding of \$200 million would provide stability for our diabetes programs in terms of planning and recruiting and retaining personnel.

Continue Full Funding of Contract Support Costs

The Tribe appreciates the subcommittees' leadership and commitment to fully funding CSC for IHS and BIA ISDEAA agreements. We appreciate the full funding of CSC over the past few fiscal years, that the funding is indefinite ("such sums as may be necessary", and that the funding is in separate accounts in the IHS and BIA budgets. We request that the subcommittees continue to fully fund CSC. Such action is crucial to strengthening the ability of tribal governments' to successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities as sovereign nations.

Adult Welfare Assistance

Our tribal members, like other residents of Indian Country and non-tribal rural populations, experience higher than average rates of unemployment than urban populations. As a Tribe, we are working hard to help create opportunities for our Members both in terms of job placement and job creation. Unfortunately, there are some circumstance when welfare assistance is temporarily needed for some tribal members. The "Welfare Assistance" sub-activity funded under the "Human Services" activity in the BIA budget provides these critical resources for our people. We, like the BIA and Congress, believe that welfare assistance should be a temporary safety net and ultimately, a bridge to better circumstances and opportunities, but we believe that it must exist. We ask the subcommittees to increase funding for Welfare Assistance to strengthen and stabilize families so that they are able to pursue job opportunities and ultimately become self-sufficient.

Conclusion

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe appreciates your consideration of our requests outlined in this testimony. On behalf of the Tribe, I would be happy to provide any other additional information as requested by the subcommittee.

[This statement was submitted by Rodney Mike, Tribal Chairman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the interagency Joint Fire Science Program. ESA is the Nation's largest society of professional ecologists, representing over 9,000 members across the country. ESA requests full funding in fiscal year 2020 of \$16 million for the interagency Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP): \$8 million in funding for the USDA Forest Service JFSP program and \$8 million for the Department of Interior JFSP program to ensure active participation from both agencies in prioritizing investment in fire research and decision support. Recent years' funding for the JFSP has eroded a program with proven great success in supporting practical science that reduces fire risk and enhances economic, ecological, and social outcomes nationwide.

As you know, the frequency, severity, and size of fires have increased substantially in the continental U.S. since the 1980s, and this trend is projected to continue and intensify in the future. The risk to communities, the cost of property loss, and the expense to cover the damage brought by these fires will consequently also grow. Scientific research is critical to understanding and properly responding to these wildfires in the most productive and cost effective manner possible.

The JFSP was created by Congress in 1998 as an interagency research, development, and applications partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program solicits proposals from scientists who compete for funding through a rigorous peer-review process to ensure the highest quality projects are funded. Over 90 colleges and universities across the United States have collaborated or partnered with JFSP-sponsored research projects. The JFSP also runs a model program in science communication, with very effective efforts to put science in the hands of managers and policymakers.

No other Federal program except the JFSP provides the integration of science and management needed to face the challenges that lie ahead—we will be living in a world with more fire. Research in fire science is crucial to anticipating how ecosystems and landscapes may change in the future, how fire should be managed in both wildlands and developed areas, and where mitigation or adaptation strategies are most appropriate. Reductions in support for JFSP are inconsistent with high-priority national research needs.

We appreciate that the House and Senate Interior and Environment Appropriations Committees have made funding for policy-relevant wildfire science among your highest priorities. We hope you will continue to recognize the critical role the JFSP plays in these efforts and fund fully fund the program in fiscal year 2020 for \$16 million: \$8 million in funding for the USDA Forest Service JFSP program and \$8 million for the Department of Interior JFSP program.

[This statement was submitted by Catherine O’Riordan, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency. ESA is the Nation’s largest society of professional ecologists, representing over 9,000 members across the country and would like to make two important recommendations. First, we strongly encourage and recommend that Congress reach a bipartisan agreement to raise the budget caps for non-defense discretionary spending. Additionally, we urge you to support robust funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for fiscal year 2020, specifically at least \$746 million for Science and Technology within EPA.

We appreciate your past support for the EPA and your preservation of the agency’s budget for fiscal year 2019. We urge you to once again reject cuts to EPA programs and research as you proceed with fiscal year 2020 appropriations.

The EPA is vital to protecting both the environment and human health, and the agency’s Science and Technology programs are critically important to its ability to successfully address environmental problems. Without adequate funding, the EPA cannot fulfill its core mission and responsibilities. Strong investments in the EPA are thus essential to ensuring the health of our Nation’s citizens and environment.

EPA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS FACING AMERICANS

Since its formation in 1970, the EPA has reduced environmental risk to Americans, enforced laws safeguarding human health and the environment, and helped the Nation serve as a leader in protecting the environment.

Science and Technology funding supports programs and research that contribute to clean air, clean water, sustainable communities, homeland security, and human health. Through the Office of Research and Development (ORD), the EPA conducts cutting-edge research programs, including important ecological research and monitoring, that provide the scientific foundation for the agency’s decisionmaking and other programs. These research and monitoring programs also provide essential data and information on which State and local governments depend, with environmental monitoring data collected and maintained by the EPA helping to ensure healthy communities across the country. EPA research projects focus on issues of national significance and help to solve complex environmental problems—often with public health implications—with new scientific understanding and technologies. From detecting and addressing harmful algal blooms to helping communities reha-

bilitate contaminated sites, EPA research funded by Science and Technology appropriations delivers solution-oriented results with broad and lasting impacts.

PROPOSED CUTS WOULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ESA is very concerned with the administration's proposed cuts to the EPA in fiscal year 2020. The President's budget proposal requests only \$6.1 billion for the agency, an estimated reduction of 31 percent from enacted fiscal year 2019 funding of \$8.1 billion. The proposed reductions, reflective of those suggested in the President's fiscal year 2019 budget, would have far-reaching and damaging effects on public and environmental health and economic growth that depends on healthy communities.

The administration's budget also proposes to reduce funding for EPA Science and Technology considerably to only \$463 million, a 35 percent cut from fiscal year 2019 funding. Sound science is the foundation of everything the agency does. EPA research programs support clean air, healthy neighborhoods, safer chemicals, and clean water, and it helps develop solutions to environmental problems. EPA science meets the highest standards for peer review, transparency, ethics, and integrity, and it is essential to maintain strong support for science and research at the EPA. Cuts, particularly cuts of the magnitude proposed in the President's budget, would dangerously hinder the EPA's ability to fulfill its mission and responsibility to the American people and would have serious impacts on the local, State, and national levels.

STRONG INVESTMENTS IN THE EPA PROTECT OUR CITIZENS AND OUR ECOSYSTEMS

The EPA is an essential agency that plays a key role in addressing ecological problems and other environmental issues that affect public health. We appreciate your past support for this critical agency, and we urge you, in the interest of ensuring the health of our Nation's citizens and ecosystems, to continue this support and provide robust funding for the EPA in fiscal year 2020, in particular \$746 million for EPA Science and Technology.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

[This statement was submitted by Catherine O'Riordan, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Entomological Society of America (ESA) respectfully submits this statement for the official record in support of funding for entomology-related activities at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, and the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI). For fiscal year 2020, ESA recommends \$8.267 billion for EPA, including support for Pesticides Licensing Program Area activities within its Science & Technology and Environmental Program & Management budgets, and continued support for State & Tribal Assistance Grants for Pesticide Program Implementation. ESA strongly supports EPA's commitment to work with other Federal agencies to monitor and improve pollinator health, including involvement by EPA to examine the potential impact of pesticides on pollinator health. In addition, ESA requests the Forest Service be funded at least at the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$6.087 billion in discretionary funds. Within the Forest Service, ESA requests the Forest and Rangeland Research budget be supported at the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$300 million to preserve valuable invasive species research and development. The Society also supports continued investment in Forest Health Management programs across the Forest Service in fiscal year 2020. ESA also recommends that DOI continue to support the important work of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), which coordinates efforts across agencies to respond to the threats posed by invasive species, to be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2018 level of \$1.202 million.

Advances in forestry and environmental sciences, including the field of entomology, help to protect our ecosystems and communities from threats impacting our Nation's economy, public health, and agricultural productivity and safety. Through improved understanding of invasive insect pests and the development of biological approaches to pest management, entomology plays a critical role in reducing and preventing the spread of infestation and diseases harmful to national forests and grasslands. The study of entomology also contributes to the development of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, which use science-based, environmentally conscious, comprehensive methods to take effective management action against pests, often resulting in lower costs and a more targeted use of pesticides.

In addition, entomology improves our knowledge of pollinators and the factors affecting pollinator health and populations, helping to ensure safe, reliable crop production that meets the needs of a growing world population.

EPA carries out its mission of protecting human health and the environment by developing and enforcing regulations, awarding grants for research and other projects, conducting studies on environmental issues, facilitating partnerships, and providing information through public outreach. Through these efforts, EPA strives to ensure that our Nation enjoys clean water, clean air, a safe food supply, and communities free from pollution and harmful exposures to chemicals.

EPA's Pesticides Licensing Program Area, supported by EPA's Science & Technology and Environmental Program & Management budgets, serves to evaluate and regulate new pesticides to ensure safe and proper usage by consumers. Through the mandate of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA uses scientific expertise and data, including knowledge gained from entomological sciences, to set maximum tolerated residue levels and to register pesticide products as effective and safe. By controlling insects that act as vectors of diseases of humans and domesticated animals, and invasive insect species that endanger our environment, pesticides registered by EPA help protect public health and the Nation's food supply.

EPA's activities in this area also include the development of educational information and outreach to encourage the use of IPM, a scientific approach to reducing pest populations by incorporating a variety of techniques, and other reduced-risk methods of managing pests. The funding that EPA allocates towards IPM in schools is important to lower the risks of students to pest management tactics and the pests that are harmful to their health or development. Schools can be vulnerable to pest problems because of their size, design and maintenance of green space. The integrated approach to pest problems focuses on prevention, which is advantageous because it reduces the probability of infestation, and is economical, sometimes saving school districts thousands of dollars per year. However, little is known about the current status of many schools and the degree to which they implement IPM practices. Results from a 2014 survey published last year in the *Journal of School Health* found that about 55 percent of schools in the US conducted IPM practices.¹ The largest schools were the most likely to have robust programs, where they notified staff, students and families before applications. However, despite the resources and guides from the EPA about IPM in schools, there is a need for funding to better ensure a wider adoption and reporting of these practices. Therefore, ESA supports continuing the activities in the Pesticides Licensing Program Area as well as the modest funding that EPA has invested in school IPM.

Among EPA's State & Tribal Assistance Grants, categorical grants in the area of Pesticides Program Implementation help to facilitate the translation of national pesticide regulatory information into real-world approaches that work for local communities. For example, these grants fund efforts to reduce health and environmental risks associated with pesticide use by promoting, facilitating, and evaluating IPM techniques and other potentially safer alternatives to conventional pest control methods. ESA requests that the subcommittee support a modest increase for Pesticides Program Implementation grants in fiscal year 2020.

ESA is in favor of increased funding for scientifically based studies of pollinator populations and health. Pollinators play a vital role in our Nation's agriculture industry; for example, honey bees alone pollinate more than 90 crops in the U.S. and are essential for the production of an estimated one-third of all the food we eat or export, contributing over \$17 billion in annual crop and seed production in the U.S. alone. To ensure a healthy bee population, more research is needed to fully understand the diverse factors that endanger bee health. Pesticides represent just one potential risk to bees, but both the risks and benefits must be balanced, and those risks and benefits will vary among different crops and different crop-producing regions of the US. EPA is well-positioned to help identify methods for protecting bee health; the agency has previously awarded agricultural grants to three universities to aid in the development of IPM practices that lower pesticide risks to bees while protecting valuable crops from pests. For this reason, ESA supports EPA's participation in multi-agency efforts to investigate pollinator health and implementing plans to prevent pollinator population decline.

The U.S. Forest Service sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of 193 million acres of public lands in national forests and grasslands across 44 States and territories. Serving as the largest supporter of forestry research in the world, the

¹Everett Jones, S., & Glick, S. (2018). School Factors Associated with the Implementation of Integrated Pest Management-Related Policies and Practices. *Journal of School Health*, 88(9), 669–675.

agency employs approximately 30,000 scientists, administrators, and land managers. In addition to activities at the Federal level, the Forest Service provides technical expertise and financial assistance to State and private forestry agency partners.

The Forest Service's Forest and Rangeland Research budget supports the development and delivery of scientific data and innovative technological tools to improve the health, use, and management of the Nation's forests and rangelands. Within Forest and Rangeland Research, the Invasive Species Strategic Program Area provides scientifically based approaches to reduce and prevent the introduction, spread, and impact of non-native invasive species, including destructive insects, plants, and diseases that can have serious economic and environmental consequences for our Nation. For example, Forest Service scientists are working to prevent the devastation of ash trees across North America by the emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that was accidentally introduced from Asia. Emerald ash borer was first detected in 2002 and, since then, has killed millions of ash trees. This biological invasion threatens to eliminate all ash trees from North America and is the costliest invasion from a forest insect to date. Emerald ash borer is just one on the exponentially growing list of invasive insects and diseases that harm our Nation's forests and our Nation's economy. Forest health is also affected by invasive weeds, and those weeds are often best controlled by beneficial insects used as biological control agents, resulting in permanent and often spectacular control. ESA respectfully requests that Forest and Rangeland Research be fully funded at \$297 million for fiscal year 2020.

Also under the purview of the Forest Service is the Forest Health Management program, which conducts mapping and surveys on public and private lands to monitor and assess risks from potentially harmful insects, diseases, and invasive plants. The program also provides assistance to State and local partners to help prevent and control outbreaks that threaten forest health. According to a 2011 study, invasive forest insects cost local governments alone an average of over \$2 billion per year; direct costs to homeowners from property loss, tree removal, and treatment averages \$1.5 billion per year.² Initiatives within the Forest Health Management program can help control these costly pests. The program's "Slow the Spread" activities, for example, have led to a 60 percent reduction in the rate of the spread of the gypsy moth, another invasive species, resulting in an estimated benefit-to-cost ratio of 3:1. Without the program, it is estimated that 50 million additional acres would have been infested by the moth.³ To support these important functions, ESA requests that the subcommittee oppose any proposed cuts to Forest Health Management program in fiscal year 2020.

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect pest from Asia that was first reported in the United States in 2014. It has become established (meaning it has been identified in all stages of its life cycle) in Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey, and, most recently, Delaware. Its ability to disperse over broad geographic areas presents a particularly challenging problem to growers and homeowners, as does its unusually broad host range, as it has been recorded feeding on more than 70 plants, including commercial crops such as hops, grapes, apples, and cherries. In addition to damage caused directly by feeding, the spotted lanternfly inflicts indirect damage via coating plants and other surfaces in "honeydew" (urine), which encourages the growth of mold and fungi. Preliminary studies indicate that it is a serious threat to agriculture and forest ecosystem health in the U.S., poised to destroy an estimated \$18 billion worth of crops in Pennsylvania alone. Studies like this demonstrate the need for continued and robust support for the interagency coordination advanced by the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). As such, ESA requests that NISC be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2018 level.

ESA, headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland, is the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and individuals in related disciplines. Founded in 1889, ESA has more than 7,000 members affiliated with educational institutions, health agencies, private industry, and government. Members are researchers, teachers, extension service personnel, administrators, marketing representatives, research technicians, consultants, students, pest management professionals, and hobbyists.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the Entomological Society of America's support for Forest Service and EPA programs. For more information about the Entomological Society of America, please see <http://www.entsoc.org/>.

²Aukema, J.E.; Leung, B.; Kovacs, K.; [et al.]. 2011. Economic impacts of non-native forest insects in the continental United States. *PLoS ONE* 6(9): e24587.

³Forest Service Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Overview: <http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/FY-2017-FS%20-budget-overview.pdf>.

[This statement was submitted by Robert K.D. Peterson, PhD, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and Members of the subcommittee:

The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) is the national nonprofit, non-partisan association of State and territorial environmental agency leaders. We, its undersigned Officers, submit this testimony on fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

State environmental agencies are the engines of environmental progress in our Nation. Under America's system of cooperative Federalism, agencies like ours normally take the lead in implementing Federal environmental laws like the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Today, States exercise over 90 percent of the delegable authorities under these and other Federal laws. You can learn more about the tangible progress the States have delivered on our ECOS Results data visualization portal.

State environmental agencies depend on Federal funding to do their work; ECOS has documented that the Federal Government provides, on average, 27 percent of our agencies' budgets. The U.S. Congress included provisions in the CWA, CAA, RCRA, and SDWA to provide assistance to States to operate these Federal programs primarily through State and Tribal assistance grants (STAG). Without adequate Federal funding support, State agencies find it more challenging to properly administer Federal environmental laws, improve public health, and protect the environment. ECOS therefore asks that fiscal year 2020 appropriations provide sustained support to programs that advance the well-being of our communities.

Please consider these principles as you deliberate about the fiscal year 2020 appropriations. Please also consider the following specific requests:

INCREASE STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE (STAG) CATEGORICAL GRANTS

STAG categorical grants fund a huge range of work by State environmental agencies. Much of that work is core implementation activity such as issuing environmental permits, inspecting facilities and enforcing the law, setting standards, and managing data. But categorical grants, including those that support voluntary and community-based programs, also fund creative solutions to local problems.

For example, STAG funds issued under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act recently helped Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) partner with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and various other private and public stakeholders in Northwest Wyoming to improve the Grass Creek/Cottonwood Creek watershed. Historic grazing practices in this area had contributed to degraded rangeland and stream conditions, until the partnership led by TNC installed best management practices with area ranchers and other stakeholders. Data collected by TNC over the course of the project suggest marked decreases in nitrogen and phosphorous, as well as decreased streambank erosion and increases in desirable riparian and rangeland vegetation. In 2018 this project was added to U.S. EPA's *Nonpoint Source Success Stories*, and also in 2018, Wyoming DEQ used its Section 319 funds to initiate nine similar projects.

STAG categorical grants also help our agencies take on larger projects that deliver positive economic benefits for communities. For example, downtown Nashville, TN is home to "The Gulch," a former rail yard which decades of neglect turned into a blighted neighborhood. Due to the use of Voluntary Brownfields Agreements the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) was able to leverage and expand private investment into the neighborhood and ensure a faster and more thorough redevelopment process. The Gulch is now a vibrant, LEED-certified mixed-use neighborhood and a popular local destination for shopping, dining, and entertainment, yielding significant new tax revenue.

STAG support is critical to the continued creativity and vitality of State-led environmental regulation. States therefore thank Congress for preserving STAG categorical grants over the past three fiscal years, and ask that Congress further support the program in the fiscal year 2020 budget.

CONTINUE FUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE VIA STATE REVOLVING FUNDS

STAG funds also support State-level investments in the infrastructure that provides our citizens safe drinking water and a clean aquatic environment. Much of that infrastructure is aging or inadequate and the States therefore depend on the funding that Congress provides through the STAG State Revolving Fund (SRF) pro-

gram. Congress recently reemphasized its support for State water infrastructure with a second consecutive year of supplemental funding through Title IV of the fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act, but there is still more to be done. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that our Nation faces more than \$271 billion in wastewater infrastructure needs. The situation is even more staggering on the drinking water side, where the U.S. EPA's most recent assessment cites a \$472.6 billion need for infrastructure investments.

These figures show that the already extensive infrastructure needs continue to grow along with our populations and the advancing age of our existing facilities. ECOS has documented these needs in reports such as our State Water and Wastewater Project Inventory, which describes the top 20 "shovel-ready" water and wastewater projects in each State. States have also shown the impact of these projects on water quality, and have demonstrated creative infrastructure solutions. In late 2018, West Virginia DEQ became the first State in its region to obligate its fiscal year 2018 Clean Water SRF money: \$50 million that will go to restore and upgrade wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and extend sewer service to two previously unserved areas. On the drinking water side, Alaska and Connecticut recently set up micro-loan programs with specially streamlined requirements to expand SRF loan access to the smallest of public water systems. In Alaska these small systems are commonly found in remote native Alaskan villages, and since small systems have not typically had SRF access these new micro-loans will have an even greater proportionate positive effect on public health. Congress should continue funding projects like these so that States can continue to serve as important sources of revolving funding to modernize local communities.

PRESERVE THE STAG MULTIPURPOSE GRANT PROGRAM

Under cooperative Federalism, States gain the authority to allocate Federal resources in ways that reflect local needs and priorities. State agencies cannot deliver on this promise unless Congress ensures flexibility in Federal funding. Funding flexibility also streamlines joint decisionmaking by EPA and States, and ultimately allows States to more quickly convert Federal dollars into positive environmental and public health results.

States used 2016 Multipurpose Grant money to fund activities ranging from implementing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards to improving electronic data management systems, and to control everything from water pollution to pesticide overuse. ECOS understands that the fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 funds will be obligated to States in tandem, meaning that a large investment in priority State programs is on the horizon. States are appreciative that Congress established this program in 2016, and we urge you to appropriate a third consecutive year of Multipurpose Grant funds in fiscal year 2020. Making this grant program a dependable funding stream would allow States to deploy that money in ways that maximize the long-term benefit to their citizens.

AVOID RESCISSION AND IMPOUNDMENT OF STAG FUNDS

States work closely with EPA through ECOS' State Grants Subgroup to speed the distribution of Federal funds and allow on-the-ground work to begin sooner. Our experiences lead us to urge Congress not to include rescissions of unobligated STAG funds in future enacted budgets, as this often results in uncertainty and delays in obligating pass-through funding. For the same reason, States ask Congress to discourage impoundment of enacted appropriations.

FULLY FUND INCREASED STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

During the past several years, States and U.S. EPA have done considerable evaluation and alteration to the State-Federal division of responsibility for environmental regulatory programs. ECOS has facilitated many of the high-level discussions about this topic through our work on Cooperative Federalism, and many of these conversations have been oriented toward shifted responsibility from U.S. EPA toward the States. States believe that Federal funds are essential to our ability to maintain the critical resources for many of these additional responsibilities.

States are also largely carrying out the responsibilities over air quality monitoring, State research, and other program implementation activities. These activities, which are now performed by the States, are important to be carried out consistently to assure adequate public protection remains. These efforts could be negatively impacted by the proposed shift of STAG categorical grant funds for particulate air quality programs from Clean Air Act (CAA) § 103 grants, which do not require a State funding match, to CAA § 105 grants which require a 40 percent State match or Maintenance of Effort (MOE). This change would likely amount to reduced levels

of effort or inconsistency among States in monitoring networks if these Federal funds are not maintained.

States' regulatory workloads increase gradually year-by-year, and most STAG categorical grant programs have been flat-funded for several years in a row. This, too, has the effect of an increase in State program responsibilities without a proportional increase in Federal support. As mentioned in the introduction, States rely heavily on Federal funding and even peripheral decreases in this funding can adversely impact State programs. We ask, therefore, that Congress account for increasing State implementation costs in Federal funding levels and push back against the proposed CAA § 103-§ 105 funding shift, and similar policy changes at States' expense.

CONCLUSION

ECOS thanks you for considering the views of State environmental agencies as you prepare the fiscal year 2020 budget. We would welcome any further discussion with you about these issues and how Federal funding can support State-level work to protect human health and the environment. Please email our executive director at dwelsh@ecos.org, or send mail to 1250 H Street NW, Suite 850, Washington D.C. 20005.



Becky Keogh, Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
ECOS President



Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
ECOS Vice President



Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Protection
ECOS Secretary-Treasurer



Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
ECOS Past President

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF STATE HUMANITIES COUNCILS

Madam Chairwoman and members of the subcommittee, I thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the State humanities councils, the State affiliates of the National Endowment for the Humanities, requesting \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities and \$53 million for the Federal/State Partnership for fiscal year 2020.

As partners of the NEH, the State humanities councils receive their core funding through the Federal/State Partnership line of the NEH budget, which they use to leverage additional support from foundations, corporations, private individuals, and State governments. In the past year, councils leveraged, on average, \$4.00 in local contributions for every dollar of Federal funding awarded through their grants, and they have further extended their resources in recent years by forming partnerships with nearly 9,000 organizations throughout their States. But demand continues to increase. In the past few years, councils continue to be asked to expand their programs to reach new populations and meet growing needs in their States.

The State councils are the local face of the humanities, developing and delivering the programs that address the issues of greatest concern to their communities, helping them explore their history and culture, and sharing the stories of our many di-

verse populations. The councils are also a major source of grants to local educational, cultural, and historical organizations for public programming in places where a small grant of several hundred to a few thousand dollars can make an enormous difference in the life of a community.

It is to meet the growing need for programs with such impact on our communities and Nation that we are requesting funding at the levels of \$165.7 million for the NEH and \$53 million for the councils. The councils are stretched thin in their ability to meet local needs and support and collaborate with local businesses, cultural organizations, schools, libraries, museums, and many other groups seeking to better the lives of those in their communities. Councils must make difficult decisions in how to allocate scarce resources among the many legitimate demands presented from a wide range of deserving populations. Fortunately, councils are also expert at using the Federal funds to attract other funding, and the increase in core Federal funding will also enhance their ability to seek those additional funds.

It is not just current demands that drive this request. The State councils see a plethora of new program possibilities, including a special opportunity to explore our country's history and system of government. In 2026, the Nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which offers an opportunity to reexamine the many diverse voices and forces that shaped our Nation and to engage in an expanded civics education program for Americans of all ages. Surveys reveal a shocking ignorance of history and a lack of awareness among both school age children and adults of the structure and processes of government and the ideals and philosophies that underlie them. The next 5 years can be a time when we rededicate ourselves to improving our collective understanding and reinvigorating our ability to work through differences.

The State humanities councils are uniquely positioned to pursue activities that offer education about our founding principles while speaking to the interests and concerns of individual communities. Further, the councils have a track record of collaborating with diverse partners to broaden impact and extend resources well beyond the initial investment. The councils also have a unique ability to reach all corners of their States. This has been effectively demonstrated in the 25-year council collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in the Museum on Main Street program and in the recent national initiative commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prizes. We must begin now to build the community relationships and develop the programs that will make commemoration of the 2026 anniversary a meaningful national event.

Throughout their history, State humanities councils have shown themselves to be innovative, collaborative, efficient, and resourceful organizations, strongly connected to the communities in their States and highly responsive to their needs. The following examples highlight a few areas where councils have a particularly strong record of service.

Serving Veterans. The importance of the council programs involving returning veterans is reflected in a comment from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen, who noted in an interview at a council-sponsored event, "All wars are fought twice, the first time on the battlefield, the second time in memory." A number of councils conduct programs to educate the public about the consequences of war, while also helping veterans reintegrate into their communities in the aftermath of their service.

In 2014 the Maine Humanities Council developed a Veterans Book Group, as one of several projects created under the NEH Standing Together initiative. The council piloted the program in 12 States including California, Maryland, Oregon, and Vermont. The reading groups, all co-facilitated by a veteran, provide a space to connect with other veterans by exploring ideas found in selected poetry and works of fiction and non-fiction, both ancient and modern.

Since 2015, Maryland Humanities has supported the Veterans' Oral History Project, through which students at a high school in Anne Arundel County have conducted oral history interviews with Vietnam War veterans and Vietnamese immigrants who experienced the war. The students receive training in oral history techniques, and transcripts and videos of the interviews are accessible online at the Maryland State Archives website. The Missouri Humanities Council works in partnership with libraries and veteran support organizations throughout the State to conduct writing workshops for veterans, which empower veterans to share their stories, thoughts, and experiences through the written word. The workshops are free of charge and conducted by professional writers.

Exploring Native American History and Culture. In May 2017, members of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee heard testimony from Valorie Walters, executive officer for the Division of the Chickasaw Cultural Center of the Chickasaw Nation, and board member of Oklahoma Humanities. Her testimony not only re-

flected on the Native American story that is “so fundamental to understanding the history of the Nation as a whole,” but also demonstrated the scope of programs, including a symposium, an exhibit, a language festival, a documentary film, and several other educational programs in Oklahoma. The programs she described were just one council’s examples of comparable programs that continue to receive support throughout the country. The aims of these programs are to work with American Indian populations to increase public awareness and appreciation of their enduring role in our history, to forge stronger bonds between native and non-native populations, and to support language preservation initiatives. The Alaska Humanities Forum’s program, “Take Wing Alaska,” for example, focuses on Native Alaskan high school students, placing them in three immersion experiences to guide them to focus not only on academic skills but also inherent cultural strengths they can refer to and draw on in the midst of a challenging life shift.

Humanities Montana, through its Tribal Partnership Initiative, supports humanities projects on the Blackfeet, Flathead, Rocky Boy, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservations, as well as the Little Shell Nation, with up to \$5,000 in funding annually. The projects are a result of informal relationships rather than conventional grant-driven processes. The council forms up to three partnerships each year, anchored in the expressed needs and aspirations of the Tribal nations.

Engaging Rural America. From the beginning, State humanities councils have been dedicated to ensuring that rural areas have access to high-quality public humanities programs. One means of accomplishing this has been through the highly successful Museum on Main Street program, a 25-year partnership between the councils and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), specifically designed to serve small rural communities. Smithsonian exhibits are refabricated as lightweight, portable traveling exhibits, suitable for display in small settings such as local libraries, museums, and community centers. Participating councils select six communities of less than 20,000 in their States to host the exhibit. Councils and scholars work with a local planning group in each community to develop a wide variety of humanities programs around the theme of the exhibit.

These exhibits cover a wide range of issues important to the communities, including, in recent years, work in America, hometown sports, foodways, and migration stories, among others. Maryland Humanities and the Mississippi Humanities council are currently touring “Water/Ways,” which explores the economic, spiritual, cultural, and historic significance of water in our society. “Hometown Teams,” currently being toured by the Florida Humanities Council, looks at the role that sports play in American society and especially in small towns across the country. “Crossroads: Change in Rural America,” which offers small towns a chance to examine their own paths and to highlight the changes that affected their fortunes over the past century, will be on tour in Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee in 2019 and 2020.

Councils also engage rural populations through a variety of other programs. Humanities Montana’s “Hometown Humanities” program, for example, brings a year’s worth of humanities-based programming to a rural Montana community. Community members choose upwards of 30 cultural programs from Humanities Montana’s catalog of offerings—public speakers, speakers in the schools, community discussions and more. The 2019 Hometown Humanities community, Red Lodge, Montana, population 2,300, will enjoy a series of programs including a writing workshop, several speakers bureau programs, storytelling, and community discussions.

Promoting Literacy and Reading. The humanities are all about reading, exploring ideas, and strengthening our connections to one another, and this is nowhere more important than within our families. Family literacy and reading programs have been signature offerings by councils for decades, arising from the belief that parents and children not only gain knowledge and improve reading skills but also build stronger bonds with each other when given opportunities to discuss ideas together. The Prime Time program, developed more than two decades ago by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and offered by a number of humanities councils, engages low-income families in discussion of high-quality children’s literature to improve the reading skills of parents and increase school readiness for at-risk children. During a 6-week period, children and parents in this program gather in schools and libraries to hear stories from a skilled storyteller and then discuss the book’s ethical and cultural themes with the help of a scholar. The program is also available in a bilingual format.

Kentucky Humanities, which has conducted the program for several years, just received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to expand the program directly into public schools around Kentucky. The Mississippi Humanities Council also offers Prime Time, in addition to Luciérnagas, a bilingual family reading program, which serves the increasing number of Spanish speakers in the State.

Supporting the Cultural Infrastructure. One of the hallmarks of the State humanities councils is their connection to and support for the communities in their States. They work hard to strengthen the resources that make these communities vibrant places to live. This includes supporting activities, such as book festivals and local commemorations, which bring people and resources into a community. Cultural tourism has benefitted from the creation of State encyclopedias, audio tours, and other materials designed to draw visitors to a specific area.

It also includes supporting local institutions that are the lifeblood of a community, such as libraries and museums. California Humanities demonstrates this with their Library Innovation Lab, which builds capacity within California libraries to develop creative and innovative programs, which respond to local needs. In particular, the program continues the legacy of welcoming newcomers, especially immigrants and immigrant populations, fostering more inclusive communities throughout the State. The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, in partnership with the Rhode Island Foundation and the Rhode Island Council on the Arts, supports the Rhode Island Expansion Arts Program, which provides funding and organizational assistance to community-based culturally diverse arts and cultural organizations. The program provides skills and tools that the organizations, especially newly emerging groups, require to grow as equal partners in the Rhode Island arts and cultural community.

The programs discussed in this brief space are merely illustrative. They represent hundreds of programs in communities large and small in every corner of this Nation where residents gather to learn about the history of their communities and their Nation; to hear previously untold stories; to read and discuss books that expand their empathy and understanding; to examine difficult ethical issues; and to inform themselves in ways that make them more responsible citizens. The State councils are well-positioned to effectively put to use the \$53 million we are requesting through the Federal/State Partnership.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FOND DU LAC BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA

On behalf of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, we submit this testimony to urge Congress to increase, or, at the very least preserve, the Federal funding levels for Indians programs that are provided through the Interior Department, Indian Health Service and Environmental Protection Agency.

It is essential to keep in mind that the problems that face communities nationwide are far more severe for Indian communities, with Tribes having far fewer resources to address those problems. An example is the opioid epidemic. Native Americans in Minnesota are far more likely to die from an overdose than white Minnesotans. For example, “[f]rom 2010 to 2016, the American Indian mortality rate more than doubled from 29.0 per 100,000 to 64.6 per 100,000 (123 percent increase), and was almost six times as high as the white mortality rate.”¹ The opioid epidemic creates other adverse impacts for Indian communities. It means that our children are “7.4 times more likely to be born with neonatal abstinence syndrome” which requires specialized treatment and care.² It increases demands on our social service programs for addiction treatment and counseling, and assistance to growing numbers of at-risk families, with more children in foster care or the subject of CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services) proceedings, an increase of 65 percent since 2015. It increases demands on our school to address the unique needs of children living in at-risk homes. And it increases the demands on our law enforcement who respond to ever-growing numbers of incidents that are drug related.

With seed money from Federal funds, we have implemented innovative programs and measures to provide health, education, social services, public safety and other governmental services to our 4,200 members and the more than 7,300 Indian people who live on and near our Reservation. Fond du Lac built the first-of-its-kind supportive housing programs in Indian country, and the first such supportive housing for Veterans. We have undertaken to implement best practices in healthcare. In so doing, we have found that an important element to the success of these programs is building on our traditional cultural practices. We are active in natural resource management and environmental protection so our water is safe to drink, fish are safe to eat, wild rice re-generates, game is plentiful, and natural resources remain available for cultural and religious practices that are central to our identity.

We are proud of what we have accomplished, but more remains to be done. The investment of Federal funds is key to that effort. It allows us to use Band resources

¹ <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/opioids/documents/raceratedisparity.pdf>.

² “Minnesota State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis” at 6 (2017), found at <https://mn.gov>.

and attract private partners so we can provide jobs, grow the local economy, educate our children, prevent crime, and care for our elders and infirm. We urge Congress to continue to fund these programs.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

We appreciate Congress's decision to increase funding for IHS in fiscal year 2019, which is essential to address the substantial unmet need for healthcare among Indian people. Indians at Fond du Lac, like Indians throughout the Nation, continue to face severe disparities across a broad range of health issues. In addition to the extraordinarily high mortality rates due to the opioid epidemic, Indians in Minnesota are far more likely to die prematurely than all others in the State, and suffer from the highest mortality rates for causes of death due to cancer, heart disease, diabetes, suicide, and unintentional injury.³

We serve over 7,300 Indian people at our clinics, but the current funding level meets only 33 percent of our healthcare funding needs. To make progress in reducing the disparities in Indian health, we urge Congress to continue to increase funding for IHS. We urge an increase for fiscal year 2020 in order to fully fund IHS programs, with the top priorities given to Hospitals & Health Clinics; Purchased/Referred Care; Mental Health; Alcohol & Substance Abuse; and Dental Health. Expanded resources for treatment and community education capacity are especially needed to combat the epidemic of drug abuse.

We also ask that Congress continue to increase funding for IHS Facilities, including Sanitation Facilities Construction. We rely on wells for drinking water, but the quality of the source water on our Reservation is very poor. It generally cannot be used unless treated, and where the source water is really poor quality, treatment may leave an unacceptable level of by-products that also fail to meet water quality standards. We face this problem now in one of our communities, affecting 54 homes and a community center. As a short-term solution, we are providing point-of-use filters. But to eliminate the problem, we need to drill several new wells to access better quality source water, but which will still need to be treated. We will also need to build a new water treatment facility, along with a water tower and new pipelines to establish redundancy in the system to protect users and to aid in fire protection. The cost is expected to be \$2.5 million, but the very limited funds for capital work provided to IHS is not sufficient to meet the need. In our region, IHS has \$1.7 million to serve 37 Tribes. Federal appropriations for other potential funding sources for drinking water infrastructure, like EPA and USDA Rural Development, should also be increased to aid us and other Tribes to build the infrastructure needed for safe drinking water.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

With funding from the BIE and the Department of Education, we operate the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School serving an average of 230 children from pre-K through 12th grade. More than 90 percent of our students come from very low-income households, as 96 percent receive free or reduced-price lunch. We are slowly making progress in improving the outcomes for our students. For example, high school graduation rates for American Indians in Minnesota have improved from 37.9 percent in 2003 to 52.6 percent in 2016, but are still well-below the 2016 State-wide rate of 82.2 percent. We are handicapped by limited resources. BIE funding has never kept pace with need, which prevents us from providing the educational services needed for our students. We appreciate Congress's decision to increase overall BIE funding for fiscal year 2019 and to continue to fund the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) grant program. Because education is so critical to success later in life, we urge Congress to continue to increase Federal funding for Indian education. We especially ask that increases be made to each of the following program:

- ISEP*, which is the primary source of school funding provided through Interior. It covers salaries for teachers, teacher aides, and administrative personnel and is essential to our ability to recruit and retain qualified teachers.
- Tribal Grant Support Costs*, which helps pay for accounting, insurance, background checks, legal and record-keeping.
- Student Transportation*, which allow us to maintain, repair, and replace buses.
- Early Childhood Development funds (FACE)*, which is critical to providing preschoolers with skills to be school-ready.
- JOM*, which assists Indian children in public schools.

³See Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Equity, *Populations of Color: Update Birth and Death Statistics* (December 2015). <https://seedsofnativehealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Populations-of-Color-Health-Update-Birth-and-Death-Statistics.pdf>.

—*School Facility Operations and Maintenance*, which keeps the building safe, pays for preventative maintenance, and covers insurance and utility costs.

BIA: PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

We appreciate Congress's decision to increase funding for BIA's Public Safety and Justice, including increased funding for criminal investigations and police services and to help people affected by opioid addiction. The largest law enforcement problems we face are due to opioids and other drugs including methamphetamines and prescription drugs. The large drug problem has also increased thefts, burglaries, and assaults. In addition, we find (and the Federal Government has also recognized),⁴ that a disproportionately large number of Native American women are the victims of sex trafficking. This is a very serious problem for our community and we are working now to establish a Tribal Task Force to help combat it. Our law enforcement also responds to domestic disputes, disturbances, disorderly conduct, property damage, trespass, suspicious activity, unwanted persons, medical emergencies, fire, neglected children, missing persons, suicide threats, and traffic offenses.

We address law enforcement by a combination of Tribal and available Federal funds and cooperative agreements with local law enforcement agencies. We currently have 20 officers, which, in addition to the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, includes a Lieutenant, one investigator and 17 officers assigned to patrol or similar duties. To meet need, we should have 25 full time officers. Five of those officers would be assigned to investigations, with two investigators dedicated to narcotics enforcement. We currently have 3 administrative staff, but should have one more person to gather Intel and manage an intelligence page linked to other Tribal agencies.

We need funding for training. With an increase in the drug epidemic and related crimes, our officers need, but are not receiving, vital training for undercover work, narcotics detection, investigative procedures, interview and interrogation, use of force, de-escalation, firearms, and community policing. Budget restraints also restrict us from buying patrol vehicles and proper equipment to combat the drug problems on our Reservation. Uniform costs increase due to contamination from drugs and blood-borne pathogens from drug users. That includes duty gear and equipment, and patrol vehicles, which need to be decontaminated more frequently. There is also need for personal protective gear and other basic equipment (e.g., binoculars, video cameras and digital recorders). We urge Congress to increase Federal funding for Tribal law enforcement.

BIA: TRUST-NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

We appreciate Congress's decision to increase funding for BIA Trust-Natural Resources by \$2.6 million. We urge Congress to further increase funding for this program in fiscal year 2020, as past funding levels have never met need. Natural resource management is vital in Indian Country where the basic subsistence needs of many Indian People—especially those living in poverty—depend on natural resources. This is certainly true at Fond du Lac. By Treaties in 1837, 1842 and 1854, the United States acquired our aboriginal territory, but to ensure that we could sustain ourselves, expressly promised that we retained rights to hunt, fish and gather natural resources within and outside our Reservation. Our members depend on and exercise these treaty-protected rights to put food on the table and for ceremonial practices that serve as the foundation for our culture. The stewardship of those natural resources—through scientific study, resource management, and enforcement of Band laws that regulate Tribal members who hunt, fish and gather those resources—are an important source of employment for many of our members. Full funding for Trust-Natural Resources Management, including increased funding for Rights, Protection and Implementation, is essential in allowing us to protect, enhance, and restore natural resources.

Forest resources are an important asset to us, and the Interior Department has recognized the importance of protecting forests from wildfire. Fire preparedness funding is insufficient. Fire preparedness provides jobs in Indian forestry and protects Indian and non-Indian lands.

⁴U.S. GAO, *Human Trafficking: Investigations in Indian Country or Involving Native Americans and Actions Needed to Better Report on Victims Served* (Sept 2017). <https://www.indian.senate.gov/sites/default/files/upload/Gretta%20Goodwin%20Testimony.pdf>.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDS—TRIBAL GRANTS

We urge Congress to increase funding, as the work of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers has grown. We have seen this firsthand. Failures on the part of Federal and State officials to properly review existing records of known sites of historic and cultural importance to the Band resulted in substantial inadvertent discoveries of human remains in a known Indian cemetery. This has, in turn, placed substantial demands on our THPO to ensure proper delineation of the site to protect the undisturbed portions, and ensure proper reburial of the remains.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

We appreciate that Congress has continued to provide Federal funds for EPA, but we ask that funding for EPA in fiscal year 2020 be increased. We rely on EPA grants to clean up brownfields and administer clean water and clean air programs. These enable us to protect the health of our community, so that we have safe water to drink and can continue to rely on fish, wild rice, and game to put food on the table.

- State and Tribal Assistances Grants (STAG)*.—We thank Congress providing STAG funding in fiscal year 2019 and strongly urge that support for this program continue.
- Water Quality*.—We have a federally-approved water quality standards program that has seen annual funding declines while the need and Band's responsibilities have increased. Given the current threats to water resources in our region, we urge that Tribal section 106 funding be doubled so that we can do the work needed to protect the water we drink, which is critical to the fish and game that are central to our and the State's economy.
- Air*.—We also have a long-standing air monitoring program that has faced a steady decline in Federal funding. We request that air quality program funding for Tribes be increased.
- Wetlands*.—One-half of our reservation is made up of wetlands. Proper management and restoration of this valuable resource is impossible without adequate and consistent Federal funding. We request sustained wetland monitoring and protection program funding.
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*.—The Band fully supports this initiative, and asks that Congress increase funding by \$200 million to restore the original funding level suggested for this initiative to \$500 million. This initiative has broad-reaching benefits to resources of importance for all stakeholders (State, Tribal and private) in the Great Lakes region.

Miigwech. Thank you.

[This statement was submitted by Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr., Chairman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FOREST CLIMATE WORKING GROUP (FCWG)

Endorsing Organizations:

American Forest Foundation • American Forests
 Binational Softwood Lumber Council • Cleaves Consulting LLC
 The Conservation Fund • Enviva • The Forestland Group • Forest Stewards Guild
 Hancock Forest Management • Hardwood Federation • L&C Carbon
 National Alliance of Forest Owners • The Nature Conservancy
 Society of American Foresters • Sustainable Forestry Initiative
 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy • Weyerhaeuser
 Woodworks—Wood Products Council

Rationale: Forests and forest products currently sequester and store 14 percent of annual carbon emissions. It is important to maintain this important resource by addressing rising threats to forest health and slowing forest conversion to non-forest uses. We can take steps to protect and increase this carbon benefit, and accelerate the ability of U.S. forests to provide a sustained level of climate mitigation service to the Nation. Many of these same investments are leveraged to strengthen the resiliency of the Nation's forests and thus protect additional public services beyond carbon such as watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreational resources and economic prosperity for rural and urban communities alike.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET ITEMS

The FCWG recommended funding levels below focus on program needs to produce major positive steps in conserving and enhancing climate resilience and carbon sequestration and storage on public and private lands.

Invest in Sound Science and Data

- USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis Program*: FIA is the foundational measure for our forests nationwide and is essential to monitoring our progress. The fiscal year 2019 enacted budget included a level funding for this program which we believe should at least be maintained, but an investment of \$83 million in fiscal year 2020 is warranted. We remain concerned about the low level of funding for the program relative to established needs for the information it provides and the negative impact of constrained budgets on data gathering, geographic scope, and sampling return interval and national consistency that is vital for evaluating forest carbon and resilience problems and potentials. This additional Federal investment should be accompanied with language calling for improvements in this program efficiencies to justify additional investment in 2020 and in future fiscal years to enable further program impact and ensure that FIA fully delivers on the Congressional mandate set in previous Farm Bills and the needs for forest owners, managers, and communities. Additional support for the FIA program is needed to ensure that we have improved data regarding carbon sequestration rates and storage and the impact of disturbance in forests to support growing data and analysis needs for climate mitigation, forest protection, and bioenergy.
- USDA Climate Hubs and Related Investments in Applied Climate Science*: The USDA Climate Hubs have demonstrated the capacity to provide useful science-based guidance for private landowners and other land managers. The Hubs assure that investments in science are returned to the taxpayer in the form of usable knowledge and tools that millions of forest landowners and managers can apply to climate adaptation and mitigation problems. Continued investment in these Hubs, integrated into various program funding, to assist both public and private land managers is critical to cross-boundary success. Specifically, the USFS Forest and Rangeland Research at \$315 million is needed to ensure this and other climate research can be applied to managing all forests.

*Promote the Use of Forest Products—Utilization in Building Construction**USFS Forest Products Laboratory*

- Woodworks*: We recommend at least \$2 million investment through the USFS, or other funding source, into the initiative Woodworks, which promotes wood use in building construction through technology transfer, especially in non-residential buildings.
- Life Cycle Assessment Research on Wood Products*: We recommend a \$1 million investment in LCA Research through USFS FPL to ensure the most updated information about the environmental impact of wood products, with a particular focus on climate related information and the role of wood in sustainable forest management systems.

Enhance Resources for Private Forest Owners—Reforestation, Afforestation, and Restoration

- USFS Forest Stewardship Program*: The Forest Stewardship Program helps landowners plan sustainable management, including carbon friendly and climate-smart practices, and to implement reforestation. We recommend an appropriation of at least \$29 million to advance carbon mitigation through this program, including funds to support tree-planting assistance on private lands.
- USFS Landscape Scale Restoration*: We recommend \$20 million this program, to stimulate cross boundary, landscape scale work that will measurably improve climate mitigation and resilience in our forests. We feel that the landscape restoration approach taken by the U.S. Forest Service effectively leverages public investments and creates scale and efficiency that allows climate and carbon public and private benefits to be both cost-effective and sustainable. Climate-induced stressors like wildfires and insects and diseases, don't stay within ownership boundaries and thus, a landscape approach is needed.

Utilize Existing Grant Programs to Retain Forests—Diverse Tools for Different Partners and Contexts

- USFS Forest Legacy Program*: We recommend \$100 million for the Forest Legacy Program the most flexible and widely applicable Federal program for permanent conservation of forestland from development. We recommend at least

maintaining or strengthening funding for this program to capture the many opportunities for State, local, and private forest conservation in carbon-rich forest systems, including extensive working forest conservation easements.

—*USFS Community Forest and Open Space Program*: The Community Forest Program is a 50/50 matching grant program that is helping local governments, Tribes, and non-profits to acquire and manage forestland threatened with conversion. We recommend \$5 million for this program, to fully tap the potential of these local and Tribal entities to contribute carbon mitigation through forests

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FRIENDS OF CAMAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

BACKGROUND

Camas National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 to protect nearly 11,000 acres of the Snake River Plains in eastern Idaho for the benefit of migratory waterbirds. The refuge contained nearly 5,000 acres of high desert wetlands fed by groundwater discharge from local springs and the surface waters of Camas Creek, a shallow stream that frequently topped its banks. However, ensuing agricultural development of the watershed prompted landscape modifications to control the stream water for crop irrigation and to deter unwanted flooding. Creek excavation began around refuge headquarters to prevent flooding of the structures, and at the same time became common practice throughout the watershed. In this way, Camas Creek was systematically transformed from a flood prone three foot deep stream into a highly-incised twelve foot deep channel.

In spite of this, the high water table continued to sustain expansive wetlands that annually produced thousands of waterfowl, supplied valuable stopover resources for tens of thousands of migratory waterbirds, and provided year-round habitat for obligate wetland species for the first half century of the refuges' existence. But beginning in the 1980s, a regional shift in agricultural practices from flood to sprinkler irrigation caused the groundwater at Camas to recede from the surface, effectively changing the area hydrologically from a discharge to a recharge system. Today, the water table exists 10 to 30 feet below the ground. Combined with the artificially low retention of Camas Creek surface water, the retreat of groundwater has meant the inundation of fewer wetland acres for a shorter period of time. During each of the drought years in 2014 and 2015, the refuge peaked at a mere 200 acres of inundated wetland habitat. This has profoundly decreased Camas NWR's contribution to wildlife conservation. Average waterfowl production and stopover usage have each fallen by an order of magnitude. The once established breeding populations of resident species such as leopard frogs, painted turtles, and muskrat no longer persist.

In the absence of springs, Camas NWR wetlands now rely upon two sources for life-sustaining water: (1) Camas Creek surface water, and (2) groundwater contributions from agricultural wells co-opted to deliver water from the retreating aquifer. Yet, both sources remain configured in a way that inefficiently translates cubic feet of water into wetland acres, remnants of a period when water was plentiful on the refuge and concerns about water excess outweighed water scarcity. Therefore, in this emerging period of water shortage, Camas NWR needs to adapt in a way that most efficiently utilizes the available sources of water to protect and sustain the wetland resources that prompted refuge establishment.

OBJECTIVES

The three following efforts are essential to reshaping Camas NWR to meet these hydrological challenges:

1. Return a portion of Camas Creek from its current highly incised state to a more natural morphology to convey more surface water to refuge wetlands via overbank flooding.
2. Shift the refuge point of creek diversion to a location downstream adjacent to lower seepage wetlands to avoid high seepage losses in the diversion water delivery ditch.
3. Relocate groundwater wells to locations adjacent to low seepage wetlands to significantly increase the wetland acreage return on cubic feet of water pumped from the aquifer.

CAMAS CREEK RESTORATION

Problem: Eight stream miles of Camas Creek exist within Camas NWR boundaries and the refuge has senior water rights to the surface runoff it conveys. However, extensive modifications to the stream channel early in the refuges' history arti-

ficially confine these surface flows, minimizing retention of these waters on the refuge and impairing water clarity. Today, the excavated channel is about four times its natural depth over much of its length, placing the channel bottom well below that of the adjacent wetlands. In this way, much of the surface water that enters the refuge also exits the refuge, unable to flow uphill into many of the adjacent wetlands. The wetlands that do receive creek water are not necessarily much more successful at producing waterbird resources. With the channelization of the stream bed came highly incised banks whose continuous erosion releases abundant sediment into the creek water. These suspended sediments impair water clarity, which in turn inhibits the germination and growth of the submerged aquatic vegetation upon which wetland animals, including migratory waterbirds, rely for nutrition. In an average year, nearly two-thirds of Camas' largest wetland is too light-limited to produce submerged aquatic vegetation.

Solution: In order to restore some measure of wetland expanse and integrity to Camas NWR, staff seeks to restore a portion of Camas Creek from its current highly incised state to a more natural morphology. This will promote overbank flooding by raising the creek channel to the level of the adjacent wetlands and increase water transparency by reducing bank erosion. We anticipate that the increase in overbank flooding and decrease in erosion from a restored Camas Creek will contribute to the recovery of historical wetland acreage, and to the increased production of high quality aquatic resources for migratory waterbirds.

POINT OF DIVERSION

Problem: The refuge maintains a point of diversion from Camas Creek on the northeast side of the refuge. From this structure, surface water is diverted down a 2 mile long delivery ditch to a ring of wetland impoundments. However, a significant proportion of this water never arrives at the wetlands, instead sinking through the porous substrate of the ditch towards the aquifer. A USGS seepage study concluded that water was lost to the aquifer in this ditch at a rate two orders of magnitude higher than in any of the sampled wetlands.

Solution: To more efficiently translate diverted creek water into wetland acres, the refuge needs to move their point of diversion downstream to a location directly adjacent to the wetland units, bypassing the inefficient main diversion water delivery ditch.

GROUNDWATER WELL RELOCATION

Problem: To offset the loss of groundwater contributions to wetlands via spring discharge, refuge staff co-opted volume wells to deliver water from the retreating aquifer into wetland impoundments. Today, well operation comes at great expense due to the quantities of electricity required, but only yields ~200 acres of wetland habitat. This inefficiency is an unsurprising consequence of co-opting wells established for agricultural irrigation to wetland inundation. Nine of the ten refuge wells remain in their original locations. As such, only 7 of these wells are connected to infrastructure that can deliver water to wetlands. And water originating from five of these wells must utilize inefficient delivery ditches with high seepage rates. Additionally, the effect of well water input is not uniform across Camas NWR wetlands. While the southern wetlands hold water better, most of the wells exist in the north part of the refuge. This mismatch requires that well water must first fill impoundments with high seepage rates in order to reach the southern wetlands.

Solution: To efficiently translate limited and expensive water resources into quality wetland habitat, the refuge needs to strategically relocate groundwater wells to locations adjacent to southern wetlands. This will allow for inundation of twice the acreage during drought years, and increase the ability of staff to manage for a more natural dynamic hydrology regime which will yield abundant and diverse resources for migratory waterbirds.

IMPORTANCE

Camas NWR is located in the arid Intermountain West. Similar to many parts of the Nation, this region has not been exempted from wetland destruction/loss. However, the natural rarity of aquatic habitat in this arid region lends added importance to the maintenance and restoration of the limited habitat that remains. It is estimated that approximately 90 percent of Intermountain West wildlife species depend upon wetlands for at least some portion of their life.

CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION

—Breeding and stopover habitat for migratory waterbirds will continue to be lost.

- Species diversity and abundance will decrease both locally and likely regionally.
- Once productive units will remain non-viable for waterfowl hunting opportunities because the refuge lacks the ability to maintain water in those wetlands into the fall.
- Diminished quality of wildlife viewing opportunities for family outings.
- Opportunities for drawing in and educating area students, scouts, and adults will decrease.
- Food chains, food webs and area ecosystems will be disrupted.
- The decline in native species will create a void likely to be filled by invasive or less desirable species.

[This statement was submitted by Karl P. Bohan, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FRIENDS OF RACHEL CARSON NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Tom Udall, Ranking Member

May 17, 2019

Ms. Chairman and Honorable Members of the subcommittee: I am Bill Durkin, President of The Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Biddeford, Maine.

I have been a member of the Friends of Rachel Carson NWR for the past 30 years. The group was founded in 1987; we are a small group supporting the refuge in Southern Maine. I have given numerous written statements over the years and we really appreciate your support in the past. This year, our refuge is not requesting any appropriations directly for Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge; this is a request for general funding of the National Wildlife Refuge System of \$586 million. This year we ask to appropriate \$50 million in the National Wildlife Refuge Fund. There was great news last week with the news of reauthorizing and permanently funding the Land, Water and Conservation Fund. With that in mind, I request \$150 million for the National Wildlife Refuge Systems purchase of easements and in holdings. I thank you all for your consideration.

The Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge is named in honor of one of the nation's foremost and forward-thinking biologists. After arriving in Maine in 1946 as an aquatic biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rachel Carson became entranced with Maine's coastal habitat, leading her to write the international best-seller *The Sea Around Us*. This landmark study, in combination with her other writings, *The Edge of the Sea* and *Silent Spring*, led Rachel Carson to become an advocate on behalf of this nation's vast coastal habitat and the wildlife that depends on it. Her legacy lives on today at the refuge that bears her name and is dedicated to the permanent protection of the salt marshes and estuaries of the southern Maine coast. The refuge was established in 1966 to preserve migratory bird habitat and waterfowl migration along southern Maine's coastal estuaries. It consists of 11 refuge divisions in 12 municipalities protecting approximately 5,600 acres within a 14,800 acre acquisition zone.

Consisting of meandering tidal creeks, coastal upland, sandy dunes, salt ponds, marsh, and productive wetlands, the Rachel Carson NWR provides critical nesting and feeding habitat for the threatened piping plover and a variety of migratory waterfowl, and serves as a nursery for many shellfish and finfish. Located along the Atlantic flyway, the refuge serves as an important stopover point for migratory birds. Previous years' appropriations have allowed the USFWS to conserve several properties within the refuge.

1. We are requesting an overall funding level of \$586 Million in fiscal year 2020 for the Operations and Maintenance Budget of the National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All of the refuges are in dire need of staffing and upkeep. The National Wildlife Refuge System is responsible for 568 million acres of lands and waters, but currently receives less than a \$1. per acre for management costs. The refuges cannot fulfill its obligation to the American public, our wildlife and 47 million annual visitors without adequate funding. Refuges provide unparalleled opportunities to hunt, fish, watch wildlife and educate children about the environment. An investment in the Nation's Refuge System is an excellent investment in the American economy, generating \$2.4 billion and creating about 35,000 jobs in local economies. Without increased funding for refuges, wildlife con-

servation and public recreation opportunities will be jeopardized. We fully supported the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's request of \$586 Million for Operation and Management for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

2. Appropriate \$50 million in the National Wildlife Refuge Fund in fiscal year 2020 which offsets losses in local government tax revenue because lands owned by the Refuge System are exempt from taxation. The Refuge Fund is an annual appropriation that supplements the Refuge Revenue Sharing Program. The Revenue Sharing Program offsets lost local tax revenue by providing payments to local governments from net income derived from permits and wildlife refuge activities.

3. We request \$150 million in LWCF funding for Refuge land acquisitions/conservation easements and we thank you for the recent vote on re-establishing "forever" for the permanent reauthorization full funding of LWCF. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is our Nation's premier Federal program to acquire and protect lands at national parks, forests, refuges, and public lands and at State parks, trails, and recreational facilities. These sites across the country provide the public with substantial social and economic benefits including promoting healthier lifestyles through active recreation, protecting drinking water and watersheds, improving wildfire management, and assisting the adaptation of wildlife and fisheries to climate change. The quality of place is greatly enhanced. As you know, LWCF uses no tax payer dollars. Created by Congress in 1964 and re-authorized last week, the LWCF is our most important land and easement acquisition tool. I support the administration's commitment to fully funding the program. This wise investment in the Land and Water Conservation Fund is one that will permanently pay dividends to the American people and to our great natural and historical heritage. The Refuge System needs \$150 million in LWCF for fiscal year 2020, including these high priority requests:

- \$10 million for Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area (FL)
- \$6 million for Silvio O. Conte NFWR (CT, NH, VT, MA)
- \$3 million for Cache River NWR (AR)
- \$2 million for Bear River Watershed Conservation Area (WY, ID, UT)
- \$2 million for Blackwater NWR (MD)
- \$2 million for Clarks River NWR (KY)
- \$8 million for Hakalau Forest NWR (HI)
- \$8 million for the Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area (ND, SD)

I again extend our appreciation to the subcommittee for its ongoing commitment to our National Wildlife Refuge System and respectfully request the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee allocate \$586 million for the Refuge System's fiscal year 2018 Operations & Maintenance Budget, \$50 million in the National Wildlife Refuge Fund and \$150 million in Refuge LWCF monies. I Thank Congress for reauthorizing and understanding the need and the commitment that was made in 1964 : Keep LWCF for the People and Wildlife. I request \$900 million in LWCF funds for fiscal year 2020.

Thank you again, Ms. Chairman, for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of protecting wildlife and it's habitat. Enjoy your next walk out on a National Wildlife Refuge. Please visit Maine and the Rachel Carson National Wildlife refuge.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGES

Thank you for the opportunity to address funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System. I am writing on behalf of the approximately 200 members of the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges.

Refuges in the San Luis Valley, Colorado have been devastated by budget cuts in the past 20 years since the Friends formed. Refuge staffing has been reduced to the point to where the remaining staff can barely keep up with day-to-day maintenance of the refuges. In 2003, the 92,500 acre Baca National Wildlife Refuge was added to the San Luis Valley Refuge Complex without funding for additional staff. Currently, that refuge is staffed by one refuge manager, an biology technician, and one wage grade maintenance position. Each of these positions came from previous positions on the existing Alamosa and Monte Vista Refuges.

Due to recent changes in water management in the San Luis Valley in which junior water users need to augment their injury to senior surface water users, the Monte Vista Refuge hardly has enough money to pay to pump water to provide habitat for migratory birds.

The refuge biologist, Scott Miller, now spends much his time writing grants to try to find money to fund programs on the refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is one of the smallest of the Federal land management agencies, but their management is intensive and requires people on the ground. In the last restructuring, many refuges and wetland management units were simply closed and the gates locked.

We have been told repeatedly by the regional USFWS office that the San Luis Valley Refuge Complex is a funding priority, but we haven't seen much funding. In the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, published in 2015, Fish and Wildlife proposed building an new office complex/visitor contact station, but apparently funding for the project has been cut to the point that the building would not be large enough for the few remaining staff.

From our perspective, the Refuge System is dying from 1000 cuts—that today have reached the bone. As I compile this brief list of what has happened to “our” refuges, it saddens me to reflect on the decline in our local refuges and the refuge system as a whole, and the corresponding costs to USFWS employees, local communities, and wildlife across the United States.

If we are to preserve our natural heritage, we need to fund our National Wildlife Refuge System.

[This statement was submitted by Tim Armstrong, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

SUMMARY

The Geological Society of America (GSA) urges Congress to provide \$1.2 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in fiscal year 2020. We thank Congress for the investments made in fiscal year 2019 and encourage a path of sustainable growth moving forward. As one of our Nation's key science agencies, the USGS plays a vital role in understanding and documenting mineral and energy resources that underpin economic growth; researching and monitoring potential natural hazards that threaten U.S. and international security; and determining and assessing water quality and availability. Approximately two thirds of the USGS budget is allocated for research and development. In addition to supporting the science activities and decisions of the Department of the Interior, this research is used by communities across the Nation to make informed decisions in land-use planning, emergency response, natural resource management, engineering, and education. Despite the critical role played by the USGS, funding for the agency has stagnated in real dollars for more than a decade. Given the importance of the many activities of the Survey that protect lives and property, contribute to national security, and enhance the quality of life, GSA believes that growth in funding for the Survey is necessary for the future of our Nation.

The Geological Society of America (GSA) is a global professional society with approximately 22,000 individuals. GSA provides access to elements that are essential to the professional growth of earth scientists at all levels of expertise and from all sectors: academic, government, business, and industry. The Society unites thousands of earth scientists from every corner of the globe in a common purpose to study the mysteries of our planet (and beyond) and share scientific findings.

The Geological Society of America (GSA) appreciates the increase to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) budget in fiscal year 2019 and thanks the Committee for recognizing the importance of the work of the agency to protect lives, property, and national security. GSA asks Congress to again reject the proposed cuts in the administration's request and instead provide USGS \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2020. GSA urges the committee ensure that any changes to the organizational structure of USGS support rather than hinder the ability of the USGS to serve the Nation with its research.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL SECURITY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE

The USGS is one of the Nation's premier science agencies, with a distinctive capacity to engage truly interdisciplinary teams of experts to gather data, conduct research, and develop integrated decision support tools. Approximately two thirds of the USGS budget is allocated for research and development. In addition to underpinning the science activities and decisions of the Department of the Interior, this research is used by communities and businesses across the Nation to make informed

decisions regarding land use planning, emergency response, natural resource management, engineering, and education.

As noted in the Preamble to its Endorsement of American Meteorological Society's *Freedom of Scientific Expression* statement, GSA "strongly believes that science and society benefit greatly from careful and ample technical peer review of scientific findings, and subsequent communication of scientific results must be permitted freely and without concern by the scientist for censorship, intimidation, or political interference." GSA encourages Congress to ensure that USGS follows these principles and others outlined in the Department of the Interior's Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities policies.

USGS research addresses many of society's greatest challenges for national security, health, and welfare. Several are highlighted below.

- Natural hazards—including earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, and landslides—are a major cause of fatalities and economic losses. Recent natural disasters, including the Camp, Carr, and Woolsey fires and Hurricanes Michael and Florence, provide unmistakable evidence that the United States remains vulnerable to staggering losses. An improved scientific understanding of geologic hazards will reduce future losses by informing effective planning and mitigation.

Decision makers in many sectors rely upon USGS data to respond to natural disasters. For example, USGS volcano monitoring provides key data to enable decisions on aviation safety. Data from the USGS network of stream gages is used by the National Weather Service to issue flood and drought warnings. Earth and space observations provide data necessary to predict severe space weather events, which affect the electric power grid, satellite communications and information, and space-based position, navigation, and timing systems. GSA urges Congress to support efforts for USGS to modernize and upgrade its natural hazards monitoring and warning systems, including additional 3-D elevation mapping and earthquake early warning systems. The recent enactment of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 indicates the support of Congress and the administration for this important research and programs that enable advance warning of impending hazards.

- On December 20, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order entitled *A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals*, that finds,

"The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity. This dependency of the United States on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability for both its economy and military to adverse foreign government action, natural disaster, and other events that can disrupt supply of these key minerals."

GSA supports increases in minerals science, research, information, data collection and analysis that will allow for more economic and environmental management and utilization of minerals. In addition, GSA supports increases in funding for research to better understand domestic sources of energy, including conventional and unconventional oil and gas and renewables. GSA appreciates congressional support for the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI), formerly known as 3DEEP, which will provide new resources and build upon the existing and successful 3-D elevation mapping and National Cooperative Geological Mapping Program to accelerate geological and geophysical mapping, identify critical mineral sites for further scientific review, and provide a host of additional benefits to local, State, and Federal entities for safety, security, scientific, and industrial uses.

- The quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater have a direct impact on the wellbeing of societies and ecosystems, as evidenced by flooding and drought impacts experienced across the U.S. during the past year, as well as the dependence of much of our society on groundwater. Greater scientific understanding of these resources through monitoring and research by the USGS is necessary to ensure adequate and safe water resources for the health and welfare of society.

- USGS research on climate impacts is used by local policymakers and resource managers to make sound decisions based on the best possible science. The Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASC), for example, provide scientific information necessary to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to the effects of climate change at regional and local levels, allowing communities to make smart, cost-effective decisions. For example, The North Central CASC supported the devel-

opment of a new experimental drought-monitoring and early warning guidance tool called the Landscape Evaporative Response Index.

—The Landsat satellites have amassed the largest archive of remotely sensed land data in the world, a tremendously important resource for natural resource exploration, land use planning, and assessing water resources, the impacts of natural disasters, and global agriculture production. GSA supports investment in earth observations, including interagency efforts to develop the next generation Landsat. Increased funding will be critical to implement the recommendations of the recent National Academy of Sciences' *Earth Science and Applications from Space (ESAS) Decadal Survey* report, which states:

“Earth science and applications are a key part of the Nation’s information infrastructure, warranting a U.S. program of Earth observations from space that is robust, resilient, and appropriately balanced.”

Activities from hazard monitoring to mineral forecasts are supported by the Core System Sciences, Facilities, and Science Support. These programs and services, such as geologic mapping and data preservation, provide critical information, data, and infrastructure that underpin the research of the USGS. Funding is particularly needed in Facilities to address many deferred maintenance issues and GSA appreciates the committee’s recent investments in this area.

Knowledge of the earth sciences is essential to scientific literacy and to meeting the environmental and resource challenges of the 21st century. GSA is very concerned that cuts in Earth science funding will cause students and young professionals to leave the field, potentially leading to a lost generation of professionals in areas that are already facing worker shortages. Investments in these areas could lead to job growth, as demand for these professionals now and in the future is assessed to be high. *Emerging Workforce Trends in the Energy and Mining Industries: A Call to Action*, found, “In mining (nonfuel and coal) a personnel crisis for professionals and workers is pending and it already exists for faculty.” Another recent study by the American Geosciences Institute, *Status of the Geoscience Workforce Report 2018*, found an expected deficit of approximately 118,000 geoscientists by 2026. Strong investments in geoscience research are needed to prepare citizens for these job opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about the U.S. Geological Survey. For additional information or to learn more about the Geological Society of America—including GSA Position Statements on climate change, water resources, mineral and energy resources, natural hazards, and public investment in Earth science research—please visit www.geosociety.org or contact GSA’s Director for Geoscience Policy Kasey White at kwhite@geosociety.org.

[This statement was submitted by Kasey White, Director for Geoscience Policy.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE
COMMISSION (GLIFWC)

1. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

- a. *Trust-Natural Resources Management, Rights Protection Implementation (RPI)*.—At least the \$40,273,000 provided in fiscal year 2019 and a proportionate share for Great Lakes Area Resource Management.
- b. *Trust-Natural Resources Management, Tribal Management/Development Program (TM/DP)*.—At least the \$12,036,000 proposed by the Senate and House in fiscal year 2019 and the TM/DP requests of GLIFWC’s member Tribes.
- c. *Trust-Natural Resources Management, Invasive Species*.—At least \$6,773,000, the amount proposed by the Senate and House in fiscal year 2019.
- d. *Tribal Government, Contract Support*.—Full funding, estimated to be at least \$242,000,000 in fiscal year 2019.

Funding Authorizations: Snyder Act, 25 U.S.C. s. 13; Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, (Public Law 93–638), 25 U.S.C. ss. 450f and 450h; and the treaties between the United States and GLIFWC’s member Ojibwe Tribes.¹

¹Specifically, the Treaty of 1836, 7 Stat. 491, Treaty of 1837, 7 Stat. 536, Treaty of 1842, 7 Stat. 591, and Treaty of 1854, 10 Stat. 1109. The rights guaranteed by these treaties have been affirmed by various court decisions, including a 1999 U.S. Supreme Court case.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- a. *Environmental Programs and Management, Geographic Programs, Great Lakes Restoration.*—The historical allocation of \$300,000,000, including a Tribal program of no less than \$15,000,000.
- b. *State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Categorical Grants, Tribal General Assistance Program.*—At least the fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 amounts of \$65,476,000.

Funding Authorizations: Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. s. 1268(c); Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, Public Law 114–322 s. 5005; and treaties cited above.

Funding through these programs fulfills Federal treaty, trust and contract obligations to GLIFWC’s member Tribes, providing vital resources to sustain their governmental programs. We ask that Congress maintain these programs and provide funding at no less than the fiscal year 2019 levels.

GLIFWC’S Fiscal Year 2020 Funding Request Highlights

1. GLIFWC would be pleased to accept an allocation of appropriated RPI funding that is in the same proportion as it currently receives.
2. Full restoration of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to its historical \$300,000,000 level, with no less than \$15,000,000 for a distinct Tribal program.
3. Full funding for contract support costs, as required by the ISDEA Act.
4. Sufficient funding in the Tribal Management and Development line item for GLIFWC’s member Tribes to fulfill their needs for reservation-based natural resource programs and to fund the Circle of Flight wetlands program.

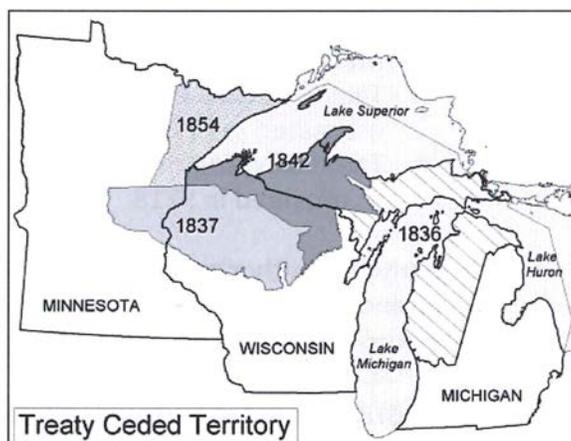
GLIFWC’S Goal—A Secure Funding Base To Fulfill Treaty Purposes and Legal Obligations

For 35 years, Congress has funded GLIFWC to implement comprehensive conservation, natural resource protection, and law enforcement programs that: (1) protect public safety; (2) ensure member Tribes are able to implement their treaty reserved rights to hunt, fish, and gather throughout the ceded territories; (3) ensure a healthy and sustainable natural resource base to support those rights; and (4) promote healthy, safe communities. These programs also provide a wide range of public benefits, and facilitate participation in management partnerships in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.

GLIFWC’S Programs—Promoting Healthy Communities and Educating Tribal Members Through Treaty Rights Exercise

Established in 1984, GLIFWC is a natural resources management agency of 11 member Ojibwe Tribes with resource management responsibilities over their ceded territory (off-reservation) hunting, fishing and gathering treaty rights. These ceded territories extend over a 60,000 square mile area in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.² GLIFWC employs over 80 full-time staff, including natural resource scientists, technicians, conservation enforcement officers, policy specialists, and public information specialists.

² GLIFWC’s programs do not duplicate those of the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority or the 1854 Treaty Authority. GLIFWC also coordinates with its member Tribes with respect to Tribal treaty fishing that extends beyond reservation boundaries by virtue of the Treaty of 1854 and the reservations’ locations on Lake Superior.



GLIFWC strives to implement its programs in a holistic, integrated manner consistent with the culture and values of its member Tribes, especially in light of Tribal lifeways that the exercise of treaty rights supports. This means not only ensuring that Tribal members can legally exercise their rights, but supporting community efforts to educate them about the benefits (physical, spiritual, and cultural) of harvesting and consuming a more traditional diet, as well as promoting intergenerational learning and the transmission of traditional cultural and management practices. These programs, in turn, promote safe and healthy communities by encouraging healthy lifestyles, intergenerational connections, and cultural education.

GLIFWC and its member Tribes thank Congress, and particularly this subcommittee, for its continuing support of these treaty obligations and its recognition of the ongoing success of these programs. There are two main elements of this fiscal year 2020 funding request:

—*BIA Great Lakes Area Management (within the RPI line item).*—A proportionate share of the \$40,273,000 as provided in 2019 for the RPI line item. The fiscal year 2019 increase of \$112,000 is greatly appreciated. GLIFWC continues to support allocating increases to the RPI line item in the historically proportionate amounts.

There is a long history of Federal funding for treaty rights protection and implementation programs. For more than 30 years, Congress and each administration have appropriated funding for these programs. GLIFWC has testified about the fact that the need is consistently greater than RPI funding, and the impacts that underfunding has on treaty rights programs. The Federal Government, as a treaty signatory, is required to uphold treaty rights. It has appropriately chosen to invest in our programs as efficient, cost-effective service delivery mechanisms at the governmental level most appropriate to implement Federal court orders and to protect and restore the natural resources on which the treaty rights are based.

GLIFWC's holistic approach to protecting treaty rights and the natural resources that support them requires that we undertake a variety of activities that promote Tribal lifeways and inform natural resource management activities. These include scientific, technical and policy analyses, promotion of healthy foods, and language revitalization. To this end, maximum flexibility should be provided to GLIFWC and its Tribes to define for themselves the science and research activities best suited to the needs of their member Tribes and the particular issues within their region. GLIFWC would be pleased to accept funds from the RPI account in the same proportion as it received in fiscal year 2019.

—*EPA Environmental Programs and Management: \$300,000,000.*—GLIFWC supports continued funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) as an important non-regulatory program that enhances and ensures coordinated governance in the Great Lakes, fulfillment of international agreements, and substantive natural resource protection and restoration projects. GLIFWC supports

consistent funding for the GLRI at \$300 million, the level that has been provided and received unwavering bipartisan support since 2011.

GLIFWC appreciates the directive in the Fiscal Year 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act's explanatory statement that EPA should work with Tribes and the BIA to develop a proposal for a distinct Tribal program within the GLRI. GLIFWC is working with those agencies to develop such a program. GLIFWC understands that in 2020, the program will be funded at \$15 million. This will help ensure that Tribes have the flexibility to develop the programs that are of the highest priorities to their communities, fulfills the spirit of self-determination, meets treaty obligations, and carries out Federal trust responsibilities.

Sustained funding for the GLRI allows GLIFWC to maintain its participation in interjurisdictional governance structures, including the implementation of the revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). With GLRI funding, GLIFWC has been able to provide active support on numerous implementing Annexes, including the Lakewide Action and Management Plan, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Chemicals of Mutual Concern Annexes.

Sustained GLRI funding also allows GLIFWC to augment and leverage its current natural resource protection and enhancement activities. This includes enhancing GLIFWC's participation in interagency efforts to assess the impacts of mining waste (stamp sands) on an important whitefish and lake trout spawning reef in Lake Superior, and to explore remediation options and strategies.

Results and Benefits of GLIFWC'S Programs

1. *Maintain the Requisite Capability To Meet Legal Obligations, To Conserve Natural Resources and To Regulate Treaty Harvests.*—While more funding would increase program comprehensiveness, sustained funding at the fiscal year 2019 level supports Tribal compliance with various court decrees and intergovernmental agreements that govern the Tribes' treaty-reserved hunting, fishing and gathering rights. Funding for science and research enhances GLIFWC's capability to undertake work and participate in partnerships to address ecosystem threats that harm treaty natural resources, including those related to climate change.
2. *Remain A Trusted Management and Law Enforcement Partner, and Scientific Contributor in the Great Lakes Region.*—GLIFWC has become a respected and integral part of management and law enforcement partnerships that conserve natural resources and protect public safety. It brings a Tribal perspective to interjurisdictional Great Lakes management fora and would use its scientific expertise to study issues and geographic areas that are important to its member Tribes but that others may not be examining.
3. *Maintain the Overall Public Benefits That Derive From Its Programs.*—Over the years, GLIFWC has become a recognized and valued partner in natural resource management. Because of its institutional experience and staff expertise, GLIFWC has built and maintained numerous partnerships that: (1) provide accurate information and data to counter social misconceptions about Tribal treaty harvests and the status of ceded territory natural resources; (2) maximize each partner's financial resources and avoid duplication of effort and costs; (3) engender cooperation rather than competition; and (4) undertake projects that achieve public benefits that no one partner could accomplish alone.
4. *Encourage and Contribute to Healthy Tribal Communities.*—GLIFWC works with its member Tribes' communities to promote the benefits of treaty rights exercise. These include the health benefits associated with a more traditional diet and the intergenerational learning that takes place when elders teach youth. In addition, GLIFWC sponsors a camp each summer where Tribal youth build leadership skills, strengthen connections to the outdoors, and learn about treaty rights and careers in natural resource fields.

[This statement was submitted by Michael J. Isham Jr., Executive Administrator.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF GRIFFIN SANDERS, STUDENT AT YORK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

In accordance to the prospective fiscal year budget of 2020, President Donald Trump's administration proposed a 31 percent budget cut to the Environment Protection Agency, the largest cut to a department in the entire budget. The passing of this budget would result in a 2.7 billion dollar change to the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency, leaving the department with only 6.1 billion dollars

to operate. While the President may want to reduce spending for the 2020 fiscal year, his budget includes increasing the funding to departments such as Defense by 33.3 billion dollars, giving the department a total of 718 billion dollars to operate. Due to the importance of the tasks of the Environmental Protection Agency in reducing the damages done to the Earth by humans, it is imperative that the Committee of Appropriations in the Senate does not pass this proposed cut to such a critical department.

The Environmental Protection Agency performs a variety of tasks in order to ensure the public's health. The agency is responsible for regulating noxious gas emissions and establishing industry standards in order to preserve our environment. Furthermore, the department provides funding for research into how to further reduce the harmful particle and gasses that are polluted, as well as educate Americans on the importance of being environmentally friendly. If the Environmental Protection Agency is defunded, they will not be able to execute these tasks to their full potential. With the EPA being restricted by a lack of funding, they will not be able to enforce environmental standards and educate fellow citizens. Consequently, corporations in the automotive, chemical, and energy sectors will be able to evade these regulations, further damaging the environment, as well as the air in which we breathe. While many legislators may see the defense budget as a top priority in order to save the lives of Americans, the air pollution caused by industrialization is killing more Americans than any foreign enemy. According to many studies from a myriad of accredited sources such as Harvard and Medicare, a particulate matter concentration of $30 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is enough to reduce life expectancy by as much as 5.4 years. Attached is a table synthesizing each study conducted on the relationship between elevated mortality risk and difference in life expectancy. Although each study has different estimates for mortality risk and life expectancies, each one concludes that air pollution causes an increase in mortality risk, while decreasing the expected length of life. While this concentration of particulate matter may be high for most parts of the United States, according to Arden C. Pope, a renowned expert in environmental science, even the concentrations in which the common American is exposed to, air pollution contributes to cardiovascular diseases and a diminished life expectancy. This lower life expectancy can be contributed to the many diseases brought on by air pollution. Some of these diseases include, but are not limited to vascular dysfunction, bronchitis, asthma, pulmonary oxidative stress, and even neurological diseases like Alzheimer's and depression. With the Environmental Protection Agency being restricted to operate by their budget, more Americans will be affected by these diseases.

Although this budget only is for the Federal Government of the United States of America, the harm done to the environment by human presence is a global issue. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change, the effect of the greenhouse gasses being released through air pollution is catastrophic: In their report, they estimate that there will be an average increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius by the year 2050. This may not seem like a lot, but this is detrimental to the ecosystems across the world, as well as the everyday lives of all people. This change will melt the ice caps by the poles, destroying the environment in which many arctic animals reside, effectively driving them into extinction. The melting of the ice caps would also raise the sea level, flooding many cities on shores with low elevation such as New Orleans, Miami, and New York. Additionally, there are many more less obvious effects of these greenhouse gasses emitted, such as an increase in food scarcity, poverty, natural disasters, and a change of climate in cities across the world. As appropriately worked by Vox, "several Northern cities will look and feel a lot like how Southern cities do today. In some cities, it'll be like moving two States south". Fortunately, it is not too late to change this fate. These disastrous changes will only occur if humanity continues to burn fossil fuels at the same rate at which it does today. Many nations have already taken action to save the planet by committing to the Paris Agreement, vowing to reduce the damages done to the environment before it is too late: The United States is not one of them. Defunding the Environmental Protection Agency would only be a step backwards in working to reduce emissions. Without adequate funding, the agency will become less effective in combating climate change, and the rate in which these ruinous changes occur will only increase.

With the dangers of air pollution being so eminent and cataclysmic, it is vital that the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency is not reduced. The agency has proven itself to be effective in their roles in regulated emissions and educating the public about the dangers of pollution. If funded properly, the EPA will continue to work constructively and help to reduce harmful gas emissions, improving the air quality for Americans and giving them a better quality of life. Without the Environmental Protection Agency operating at its full capacity, Americans will expect an

onslaught of many diseases and a shorter life. As a legislator of one of the most powerful nations in the world, you are in control of whether we as Americans act to save our dying planet. This decision on the budget of the EPA not only affects this generation, but future generations, by not cutting funding to the Environmental Protection Agency, we will help to ensure that our children, and our children's children will be able to live their best possible lives on the planet that we all share.

Thank you,

Griffin Sanders
Student at York Community High School
griffinsanders13@gmail.com

Study	Difference in Exposure	Elevated Mortality Risk (%)	Difference in Life Expectancy (estimates)
Harvard Six Cities Cohort study	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	56	5.4
ACS CPS-II Cohort study	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	20	2.2
Medicare Cohort study	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	12	1.3
Canadian Cohort study	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	33	3.4
Meta Estimate of Cohort Studies	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	20	2.2
First Difference analysis of United States country-level changes in life expectancy (1980–2000).	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	1.8
First Difference analysis of United States country-level changes in life expectancy (2000–2007).	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	1.1
China Quasi Experimental, regression discontinuity study North vs South of Huai River.	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	14	3.0
Active Smoking	Active smoker vs never smoker	100	7.8

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HEIDI K. WILLIAMS, MAYOR, CITY OF THORNTON,
COLORADO

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

As members of the WaterNow Alliance, we write to respectfully request your support to fund the Environmental Protection Administration's WaterSense Program at the fiscal year 2019 level of \$3.1 million or higher. WaterSense shares resources and encourages the adoption of water efficient practices and products that use less water across the Nation. The proposed fiscal year 2020 budget calls for the elimination of this small but important program. We urge you to reject this proposal and fund the WaterSense Program at least at its current level. While miniscule in terms of the overall Federal budget, WaterSense has an outsize beneficial impact on local communities like Thornton.

Since 2006, WaterSense partnerships have saved more than 3 trillion gallons of water. Additionally, WaterSense labeled products have saved over 400 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and approximately \$65 billion in water and energy bills for Americans in every State.

Using water efficiently makes sense for consumers, communities, and the environment as populations are faced with supply issues, aging infrastructure, extreme weather, and growth. It is critical to fund the WaterSense Program at the very minimum of the fiscal year 2019 funding level of \$3.1 million or higher in the fiscal year 2020 budget to support utilities and consumers in the efforts to conserve this vital resource. Public and private partners, municipalities, and utilities across the Nation rely on WaterSense labeled products for conservation and efficiency programs.

For all of these reasons, we believe that the WaterSense Program is deserving of your support to fund at \$3.1 million or higher. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Heidi K. Williams
Mayor—City of Thornton

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND, AND DORIS DAY ANIMAL LEAGUE

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on matters of importance to our organizations. We urge the subcommittee to address the following requests in the fiscal year 2020 Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies budget:

- EPA New Approach Methodologies development and implementation*: strong funding
- BLM, Wild Horse and Burro Program*: (1) \$135,000,000, contingent on immediate implementation of a management program based on four prongs detailed below; (2) fiscal year 2019 enacted language to protect wild horses and burros from slaughter
- USFS, Wild Horse and Burro Program*: fiscal year 2019 enacted language to protect USFS wild horses and burros from slaughter
- FWS, Multinational Species Conservation Fund*: \$15,000,000, with no funds from conservation programs to promote trophy hunting, trade in animal parts, or other consumptive uses of wildlife
- FWS, Office of International Affairs*: \$18,000,000
- FWS, Office of Law Enforcement*: \$85,000,000

We also request that the budget exclude any language that would in any way impede efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, relax regulations on imports of sport-hunted trophies, or undermine the Endangered Species Act. In addition, we request a block on funds for the International Wildlife Conservation Council. Further, we request that any ESA-related funds be directed toward the following FWS programs: Listing; Recovery; Planning and Consultation; Conservation and Restoration; and the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY—NEW APPROACH METHODOLOGIES DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Thousands of chemicals are currently used, and hundreds of new ones are introduced each year, for which EPA needs to conduct toxicity assessments. The EPA is also tasked with evaluating and registering pesticides as well as evaluating chemicals for possible endocrine activity. In addition, since 2016, there is new mandate to develop and implement non-vertebrate test methods for chemical safety evaluation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). To address these needs, EPA must shift significant focus to New Approach Methodologies (NAM)—defined by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences as “non-animal technology, methodology, approach, or combination thereof that can be used to provide information on chemical hazard and risk assessment” and by EPA as equivalent to the non-vertebrate test methods defined in in the revised TSCA.

The EPA’s National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT), in collaboration with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, and the Food and Drug Administration, has developed an extensive database of chemical safety information, is screening thousands of chemicals using hundreds of high-throughput non-animal methods, and is developing improved models for estimating exposure. Although these newly developing NAMs are beginning to reduce animal use while improving the speed and accuracy of chemical evaluation relevant to several programs, further development and implementation is necessary to effectively carry out EPA’s mandates.

We support strong funding of NCCT and other programs within EPA’s Office of Research and Development that focus on development and implementation of NAMs in order for EPA to fulfill its mandates and assure a more efficient and relevant chemicals safety assessment process.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT—WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM

The HSUS is one of the leading advocates for the protection and welfare of wild horses and burros in the United States, with a long history of working collaboratively with BLM—the agency mandated to protect America’s wild horses and burros—on the development of effective and humane management techniques.

For years, the HSUS has strongly cautioned against continuing to gather large numbers of wild horses and burros from our rangelands annually without implementing any program for suppressing population growth. This approach has led BLM into a continuous cycle of roundups and removals, even as long-term, cost-efficient, and humane management strategies, such as fertility control, are readily available.

Because of this strategy, BLM has long removed many more wild horses and burros from the range than it could expect to adopt, while simultaneously being unable

to stabilize on-range populations. Consequently, the cost of the wild horse and burro program has continued to grow, without any benefit to wild horses, to the government, or to our public rangelands.

To move the agency away from this failed paradigm, appropriations language in the past few years has requested that BLM create a long-term, humane, and financially sustainable management path that incorporates large-scale use of fertility control tools. This approach is supported by the National Academy of Sciences report, which called for increased use of on-the-range management tools, including the fertility control vaccine Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP). Further, studies have shown that incorporating fertility control into the management of wild horses and burros would significantly lower the program's carrying costs. A 2008 paper determined that on-the-range contraception could reduce total wild horse and burro management costs by 14 percent, saving \$6.1 million per year. In addition, the results of a paper describing an economic model commissioned by the HSUS indicates that treating wild horses on one hypothetical Herd Management Area (HMA) with PZP could save BLM approximately \$5 million dollars over 12 years, while achieving and maintaining Appropriate Management Levels of 874 horses. Since BLM estimates that almost 82,000 wild horses roam in the United States, PZP use could save tens of millions of dollars if applied broadly across all HMAs.

However, instead of pursuing Congressional recommendations to increase the use of fertility control tools, BLM has consistently failed to implement any humane management plan. In fact, in 2018 the agency treated only 702 horses with fertility control out of an estimated rangeland population of approximately 82,000—less than 1 percent of the population.

The program must be altered to ensure that wild horses and burros are managed humanely—and that populations begin to gradually decline. As such, we recommend a sustainable management program which should include four prongs:

1. Conduct targeted gathers and removals at densely populated HMAs to reduce herd size in the short term.
2. Treat gathered horses with fertility control prior to returning to the range. This program should continue until 90 percent of the mares on the range have been treated and continued consistent fertility control is implemented.
3. Relocate horses in holding facilities, and those taken off the range to large cost-effective pasture facilities funded through public-private partnerships.
4. Promote adoptions in order to reduce captive populations and costs.

We ask that you fund the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program at \$135,000,000, contingent on the agency's immediate implementation of a management program based on the four points listed above.

We request the same language barring BLM wild horses and burros from being sent to slaughter that figured in the fiscal year 2019 Appropriations bill: "Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products," (Division E, p. 7, lines 5–10).

We also request the same protections for wild horses and burros transferred to other agencies that were included in the fiscal year 2019 Appropriations bill, ensuring that transferred wild horses and burros shall not be: destroyed in a way that results in their destruction into commercial products; sold or otherwise transferred in a way that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products; or euthanized except upon the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian, in cases of severe injury, illness, or advanced age (Division G, p. 61–62, lines 20–15).

FOREST SERVICE—WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM

We request inclusion of language barring USFS wild horses and burros from being sent to slaughter that mirrors the language that appeared for the BLM in the fiscal year 2019 Appropriations bill: "Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products."

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

We urge the subcommittee to appropriate \$15 million for the MSCF, which supports critical conservation programs for some of our world's most iconic species: African and Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and sea turtles.

The HSUS joins a broad coalition of organizations in support of MSCF, while asking that proceeds of MSCF semi-postal stamps remain supplementary to annual appropriations.

While we wholeheartedly support continued funding for MSCF, we are concerned about past incidents and oppose any future use of funds from these conservation programs to promote trophy hunting, trade in animal parts, and other consumptive uses—including live capture for trade, captive breeding, entertainment, or for the public display industry—under the guise of conservation. The use of MSCF grants must be consistent with the spirit of its authorizing law.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We request that you appropriate \$18 million for OIA, whose programs provide critical resources to help stakeholders on the ground fight wildlife trafficking and poaching. In particular, funds will be used for comprehensive and holistic solutions in other countries to mitigate the threats of wildlife poaching and trafficking—including community engagement, law enforcement, reducing consumer demand for trafficked wildlife, and international collaboration.

In the past year, the American public has reacted with dismay and disapproval to the administration's actions to allow increased imports of sport-hunted trophies into the United States. We ask that the subcommittee exclude any language from the Appropriations bill that would relax regulations on imports of such trophies. We also request the subcommittee to urge the Fish and Wildlife Service to refrain from relaxing regulations on imports of such trophies.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

We urge the subcommittee to fund OLE at \$85 million. The United States is among the world's largest consumers of illegal wildlife, underscoring the importance of OLE's work fighting transnational and domestic wildlife crime.

Accomplishments from the past year illustrate how OLE has capitalized on past investments to make progress toward these goals. The OLE has ongoing operations to combat the illegal trade of elephant ivory, glass eels, and other wildlife products. Operation Crash, aimed at rhino horn trafficking, secured the September 2017 conviction of a California man for selling rhino horn. In January 2018, another investigation yielded the conviction of two Florida men for stealing more than 650 sea turtle eggs from their nests.

We also ask that the bill exclude language to weaken the enforcement or implementation of the June 6, 2016 rule combating ivory trade in the United States (81 Fed. Reg. 36387).

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

We urge the subcommittee to block all funding for the International Wildlife Conservation Council (IWCC). The IWCC was established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2) but violates its criteria in several ways. The council is not essential, as it is duplicative of past and present councils. It is not balanced or protected from undue influence of special interests, as almost all of its non-governmental members come from the world of hunting and have personal, financial, or other vested interests in loosening restrictions on hunting wildlife internationally. Further, the IWCC is not in the public interest. As such, the IWCC is not a responsible use of American taxpayers' money.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is fundamental to the protection of our planet's most imperiled animals. This law, which is supported by 90 percent of American voters, has prevented the extinction of 99 percent of the species under its care, including the bald eagle. Under the ESA, the responsibility to list and delist species lies with Federal agencies, which must make these listing decisions based on the best available science. The authority to make these science-based management decisions should remain with Federal agencies.

We ask that any funding related to the implementation of the ESA be directed toward the following programs: Listing; Recovery; Planning and Consultation; Conservation and Restoration; and the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

We also ask that the fiscal year 2020 budget exclude any language preventing agencies from making listing or delisting decisions based on sound science, or that otherwise undermine the ESA.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

On behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and our members and supporters nationwide, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The International Fund for Animal IFAW has 17 offices globally and works in more than 40 countries around the world. IFAW takes a holistic approach to innovating solutions for tough conservation challenges like conflicts between humans and wildlife, and illegal wildlife trafficking. Recognizing the unbreakable link between animals and human wellbeing, we support and empower communities to coexist with and value native wildlife and help those communities develop tools to protect their wild heritage. IFAW appreciates this subcommittee's support in the current fiscal year 2019 in providing funding for many important conservation programs, and requests your continued support for these programs in fiscal year 2020, including full funding for the Endangered Species Act, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds (\$18 million), the International Affairs program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$18 million), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement (\$81 million). With respect to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), IFAW requests (1) the subcommittee commission a report on proper funding levels necessary to fully implement the Act; (2) until a report has been finalized, raise ESA funding in line with any increases to defense spending; and (3) deny support for any projects that seek to circumvent the ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Finally, we urge the subcommittee to prioritize infrastructure projects that are sustainable and resilient.

Healthy, biodiverse ecosystems are fundamentally necessary to human health and wellbeing; they provide a bulwark against catastrophic events, increase or resilience, and serve as an insurance policy against future loss. Unfortunately, wildlife and wild lands are in peril around the world. Trafficking in wildlife and wildlife parts remains the fourth most lucrative criminal enterprise worldwide. Here at home, years of scarce funding have left an overwhelming backlog of species awaiting evaluation for protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). And just this month, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) released a summary of its landmark Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The comprehensive report, authored by more than 145 experts from 50 countries over 3 years, warns that "1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history".¹ This unprecedented threat to biodiversity makes all of us more vulnerable, and imperils the very fabric of this planet we call home.

However, at IFAW we see reasons for hope. If we invest wisely now, we can begin to stem the tide of extinction. And by doing so, we will help to ensure plentiful food, clean drinking water, and breathable air for ourselves and future generations. Moreover, we will save financial resources overall: it is always more expensive to treat disease outbreaks than it is to prevent them, or to restore a damaged landscape than to preserve an undamaged ecosystem. The good news is that many of the programs that are best able to address today's grim challenges fall within the jurisdiction of this subcommittee.

No NEPA or ESA Waivers: Broadly, IFAW urges this subcommittee to consider the health of wildlife and the environment in all of its actions. At a minimum, no federally-supported construction project, including disaster remediation projects, should be exempted from such fundamental laws as the ESA and NEPA. NEPA and ESA analyses protect against substantial social, environmental, and economic harm. These reviews allow construction projects to move forward while ensuring full disclosure of potentially harmful outcomes, informed decisionmaking, effective design, and risk mitigation. There has been a distressing trend to exempt projects from NEPA, ESA, or other environmental reviews and we urge the subcommittee to reverse this trend by denying funding for any plan that does not include a commitment to bedrock conservation and environmental reviews.

Infrastructure: As Congress moves to address our aging infrastructure, we have an unparalleled opportunity to invest in environmental safeguards and conservation innovations that will ensure American wellbeing and security, and create jobs and prosperity for the citizens of today and for many future generations. IFAW urges this subcommittee to review any infrastructure plans within your jurisdiction through the lens of wildlife conservation and environmental sustainability. We advocate prioritizing funding for projects that: rely on sustainable or natural materials

¹<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>

to increase infrastructure resiliency and longevity; reintroduce or preserve native flora; create resilient and sustainable water and waste management systems, particularly through implementing natural alternatives like wetlands, dune restoration, and natural vegetation buffers; and reduce wildlife conflict using wildlife corridors and crossings.

Additionally, natural areas on public lands provide numerous valuable ecosystem services to the American people including clean water and water purification, filtration and storage; flood control; soil stabilization; climate regulation; wildlife habitat and corridors; and recreation opportunities. Unfortunately, some existing infrastructure may threaten ecosystem services, especially if in a degraded condition. For example, national forests contain more than 380,000 miles of roadsⁱⁱ (more than 7 times as many miles as the interstate highway systemⁱⁱⁱ), some 7000 bridges^{iv} and over 1,700 dams. Efforts must be made to repair or in some cases remove infrastructure that poses a threat to ecosystem and public interest values. As with all infrastructure projects, we urge the subcommittee to give preference to projects that use sustainable and natural materials that provide better resilience to changing conditions.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PRIORITY PROGRAMS

Endangered Species Act: In spite of years of relatively flat funding, our Nations' most important conservation law, the Endangered Species Act, remains effective and has been successful in protecting 99 percent of listed species. More than 2,300 plant and animal species are currently listed. Saving species from extinction is more than just about preserving iconic wildlife for generations to come. We are also protecting integral parts of the ecosystem that provides the air we breathe, the water we drink, the parks we enjoy, and the medicine we need. The Endangered Species Act protects wildlife within the United States, and species around the globe by requiring agencies to ensure that federally supported international activities protect species survival and preserve important habitat and by generally prohibiting the import of listed species.

The ESA has faced frequent attacks in recent years, through spending riders, authorizing legislation, and administrative action. IFAW thanks this subcommittee for its efforts to fend off appropriations riders in past bills, and asks that any riders aimed at undermining the ESA be excluded from the fiscal year 2020 Act.

Additionally, while species face ever-mounting pressures from climate change, habitat loss, and other factors, funding for the ESA has not kept pace with the need. There is a backlog of species awaiting consideration for protections under the Act. IFAW urges the subcommittee to direct the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to provide on funding levels necessary for FWS to fully implement the ESA. In the meantime, we ask the subcommittee to increase funding for ESA programs at a rate commensurate with increases to defense spending in order to better reflect the increasing need of imperiled species.

FWS International Affairs: The FWS International Affairs (IA) program is tasked with coordinating domestic and international efforts to protect and restore wildlife and ecosystems. By overseeing domestic conservation laws and international conservation treaties, including the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the IA program has become a keystone of U.S. leadership on the international stage. Importantly, the IA program supports transboundary regional projects as well as those that focus on target species, promoting habitat conservation and restoration in areas where wildlife is most at risk from habitat loss. IFAW requests \$18 million for this important program.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF): IFAW is part of a diverse coalition of groups, including animal welfare, environmental, sporting, and industry organizations, that support the MSCF. These funds protect tigers, rhinos, African and Asian elephants, great apes, and marine turtles, all of which are in constant danger from illegal poaching and wildlife trafficking, habitat destruction, climate change, and other pressures. Wild members of these species may live outside our borders, but these iconic animals remain important to the American people. None of us wants this to be the generation to preside over the extinction of elephants or tigers in the wild. MSCF programs have helped to sustain wildlife populations by funding groundbreaking projects that combat poaching, reduce human-wildlife conflict and

ⁱⁱ According to USDA that is an estimated 380,000 miles of Forest Service roads not including public roads such as a State, county and private roads maintained by others on National Forest System. https://www.fs.fed.us/eng/road_mgt/factsheet.shtml last observed 1/24/19

ⁱⁱⁱ According to the Federal Highway Administration: Currently, the Interstate System is 46,876 miles long <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/interstate/faq.cfm#question3>

^{iv} https://www.fs.fed.us/eng/road_mgt/factsheet.shtml

protect the vital habitat of priority species. By promoting community engagement and combatting trafficking, the MSCF programs also promote the rule of law abroad and contribute to our domestic security. These programs are highly efficient, with low administrative costs ensuring that more than 95 percent of appropriated funds were distributed through grants in fiscal year 2017. The MSCF received a small increase in fiscal year 2019, but with pressures on these species mounting, IFAW requests that \$18 million be appropriated for the MSCF for fiscal year 2020.

Office of Law Enforcement: The U.S. remains one of the world's largest illegal markets for wildlife and wildlife products. Our leadership within the global community is also a key driver in convincing nations around the globe to invest in protecting endangered wildlife. The Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) within the FWS is on the front lines of wildlife crime, inspecting wildlife shipments, conducting investigations, and enforcing Federal wildlife laws to protect fish, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems. The OLE combats poaching and wildlife trafficking, breaking up international criminal rings that not only harm wildlife, but may also engage in other illicit activities. Among other things, the small but mighty force at OLE sends experienced FWS attachés to strategic regions where they combat wildlife trafficking by supporting and advising foreign partners. This program is critical both to domestic and international conservation efforts and to U.S. security. IFAW requests \$81 million for OLE.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to share IFAW's priority requests to promote conservation in the fiscal year 2020 Interior, the Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Wildlife and their habitats are more than our national heritage, they are essential to human health and happiness. We appreciate the continued support of this subcommittee for conservation efforts globally and within the United States. With your support, we look forward to a bright and healthy future for generations of wildlife lovers and all Americans. Thank you.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE INTERSTATE MINING COMPACT COMMISSION

My name is Thomas L. Clarke and I serve as Executive Director of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission. My address is 459 Carlisle Drive, Herndon, VA 20190. My email is tclarke@imcc.isa.us. I appreciate the opportunity to present this statement to the subcommittee regarding the views of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission's 26 member States on the fiscal year 2020 Budget Request for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) within the U.S. Department of the Interior. In its proposed budget, OSMRE is requesting \$43.9 million to fund Title V grants to States for the implementation of their regulatory programs, a reduction of \$24.7 million below the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. We believe this is inadequate and urge that funding be continued at the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$68.59 million.

The Compact is comprised of 26 States that together produce some 95 percent of the Nation's coal, as well as other important minerals. The Compact's purposes are to advance the protection and restoration of land, water and other resources affected by mining through the encouragement of programs in each of the party States that will achieve comparable results in protecting, conserving and improving the usefulness of natural resources and to assist in achieving and maintaining an efficient, productive and economically viable mining industry.

OSMRE has projected an amount of \$43.9 million for Title V grants to States in fiscal year 2020, an amount which is matched by the States. These grants support the implementation of State regulatory programs under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and as such are essential to the full and effective operation of those programs.¹ Pursuant to these primacy programs, the States have the most direct and critical responsibilities for conducting regulatory operations to minimize the impact of coal extraction operations on people and the environment. The States accomplish this through a combination of permitting, inspection and enforcement duties, designating lands as unsuitable for mining operations, and ensuring that timely reclamation occurs after mining.

In fiscal year 2019, Congress approved \$68.590 million for State and Tribal Title V grants pursuant to the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. This continued a much-needed trend whereby the amount appropriated for these regulatory grants aligned with

¹ OSMRE recognizes the significant role played by the states in its budget justification document on page 44 where it notes that "primacy states have the most direct and critical responsibilities for conducting regulatory operations to minimize the impact of coal extraction operations on people and the environment. The states have the capabilities and knowledge to regulate the lands within their borders."

the demonstrated needs of the States. The States are greatly encouraged by the amount approved by Congress for Title V grant funding over the past several fiscal years. These grants had been stagnant for many years and the gap between the States' requests and what they received was widening. This debilitating trend was compounding the problems caused by inflation and other costs beyond the control of the States, thus undermining State efforts to realize needed program improvements and enhancements and jeopardizing their efforts to minimize the potential adverse impacts of coal extraction operations on people and the environment. OSMRE acknowledges the importance of this funding on page 43 of its budget justification document where the agency explains that "primacy States will continue to need a diverse and multidisciplinary cadre of personnel skilled in scientific and engineering areas to review mine permits, determine whether performance bond coverage and amounts are sufficient to ensure reclamation, conduct mine site inspections and implement enforcement actions when necessary."

In past budget requests, OSMRE displayed a pattern of proposing inadequate funding for State Title V regulatory programs. Congress consistently rejected the proposed reductions and funded the programs at amounts that more closely aligned with the States' projected needs. OSMRE's fiscal year 2020 budget proposal once again moves the grants marker in the wrong direction by continuing to propose increasing cuts in regulatory grants, year after year, that are rejected by Congress year after year. The proposed cut for fiscal year 2020 is \$8.6 million more than the cut OSMRE proposed for fiscal year 2019, (which was double the cut it had proposed in fiscal year 2018). OSMRE States that "this request fully funds the projected 2020 activity requirements, based on a downward trend in State grant execution and an historical return of unexecuted appropriated funds at the end of the grant cycle each year."

What OSMRE fails to note in its analysis is that, given fiscal constraints on State budgets, some States have only recently been able to move beyond hiring and salary freezes and restrictions on equipment and vehicle purchases, all of which have inhibited the ability of some States to spend the full amount of their Federal grant money in some years. With many States now recovering enough to utilize their full grant amount, it is imperative that funding be maintained at a level that meets the States' estimates of program needs. Those estimates reflect the ongoing work associated with State program implementation including permit reviews, inspections and enforcement at all inspectable units. Even with the downturn in coal production, the States' workload has not decreased—and in some cases has increased given the tenuous condition of some coal companies. In the latter situation, higher levels of vigilance are necessary to insure contemporaneous reclamation and abatement of violations.

OSMRE goes on to note that it will "continue to support State regulatory grant requests by re-distributing the available prior year funds as needed." We believe this plan to be shortsighted in that it fails to consider the improving fiscal conditions in many States and the damaging precedent set by appropriating suboptimal grant amounts. Our analysis of State program funding needs for fiscal year 2020 based on recent estimates indicate that a full Federal appropriation of \$68.6 million will be required. In some States, additional matching Federal funds may be necessary to meet program needs. It should be noted that in the future, the States' needs may increase. By fiscal year 2021, we can expect that Tennessee will have attained primacy and add another million dollars or so to the States' grant needs.

Furthermore, there is no guarantee that these carryover funds will be available into the future or that they would not be reprogrammed for other purposes. Congress should specifically mandate through report language that all carryover funds from past fiscal years can only be used to fund State regulatory program needs. It would also be beneficial to State program implementation if OSMRE was authorized to utilize these carryover funds for State program enhancement activities (without matching requirements) for such critical program topics as electronic permitting, mine mapping, and benchmarking workshops.

We acknowledge that the amount of carryover funding specifically targeted for State regulatory grants has increased over the years, to approximately \$28 million according to OSMRE's estimates. This is the result of two factors: (1) the fact that appropriations for State regulatory grants are treated as 2-year money, thereby providing flexibility for the use of these moneys and (2) a few tough years where States faced particular challenges in obtaining State share match moneys and/or expending grant funding before the end of the Federal fiscal year. With an improving economy and the ability to better manage State program expenditures, States are expending almost all of what they receive. Furthermore, having a cushion of available carryover funding from year to year provides the certainty and confidence that both OSMRE and the States require in managing funding for these critical programs.

Clear indications from Congress that reliable, consistent funding will continue into the future has done much to stimulate support for these programs by State legislatures and budget officers who, in the face of difficult fiscal climates and constraints, have had to deal with the challenge of matching Federal grant dollars with State funds. This is particularly true for those States whose match is partially based on permit fees from the mining industry, where significant reductions in permitting activity translate to fewer permit fees (but not in the amount of regulatory work for State regulatory agencies). Recall that any cut in Federal funding generally translates to an additional cut of an equal amount for overall program funding for many States, especially those without Federal lands, since these States can generally only match what they receive in Federal money.

We are encouraged with language in OSMRE's budget justification document that "in furtherance of cooperative Federalism, OSMRE will continue its oversight steering committee with State Regulatory Authorities to discuss impediments to meaningful and effective oversight including revising current OSMRE oversight directions [sic]." IMCC approached OSMRE in September of 2017 to pursue these and other programmatic concerns, including the processing of State program amendments, NEPA requirements and funding protocols. Since that time, the States have engaged in a series of meetings with OSMRE to advance our common goals under SMCRA. However, the proof is in actual implementation of these laudable goals. Based on our experience with program operations, some of the very areas OSMRE identifies as reasons for its oversight activity are either dependent on State involvement (training) or have seen little in the way of progress over the years (State program amendment review and approval). We are hopeful that our recent engagement with OSMRE on these critical program elements will come to fruition, unlike past efforts which either stalled or lacked leadership support.

The overall performance of the States as detailed in OSMRE's annual State program evaluation reports, together with the fact that nationwide, 90 percent of the sites inspected did not have off-site impacts, demonstrates that the States are implementing their programs effectively and in accordance with the purposes and objectives of SMCRA. In our view, this suggests that OSMRE is adequately accomplishing its statutory oversight obligations with current Federal program funding and that any increased workloads are likely to fall upon the States, which have primary responsibility for implementing appropriate adjustments to their programs identified during Federal oversight. To the extent that OSMRE is looking for ways to improve and enhance the overall implementation of SMCRA at both the State and Federal level, we urge the agency to move forward with the findings and recommendations that IMCC has presented to OSMRE to address the continuing fiscal impacts on program implementation, particularly with respect to duplicative inspection and enforcement requirements.

For all the above reasons, we urge Congress to approve not less than \$68.6 million for State and Tribal Title V regulatory grants in fiscal year 2020, the same amount enacted by Congress over the past few fiscal years. In doing so, Congress will continue its commitment to ensuring the States have the resources they need to continue their work on the forefront of environmental protection and preservation of public health and safety.

We are concerned about the proposal to increased funding for the "Enhanced Geomine Project" by \$500,000. The Geomine Project was a pilot program covering three of IMCC's member States in the Appalachian region. We understand OSMRE abandoned more this pilot program than 5 years ago. Without more information regarding the intended use of these funds, we question whether expenditure of this money on an abandoned project is appropriate.

We are pleased to see that OSMRE's proposed budget generally maintains the level of expenditures for the National Technical Training Program (NTTP) and the Technical Information and Professional Service (TIPS), with a slight increase in funding for Title Regulatory Programs. The States rely heavily on the NTTP and TIPS training classes for their new employees and for refresher courses for more seasoned employees. These training programs are especially important as States find themselves at a point where many of their employees are finishing careers and must be replaced with less experienced people. Any adjustments to these two programs should involve the States working through the NTTP/TIPS Steering Committee.

With regard to funding for State Title IV Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program grants, the States and Tribes should receive the mandatory appropriation of \$188.4 million in fiscal year 2020. In its proposed fiscal year 2020 budget, OSMRE seeks to eliminate \$115 million for the AML economic development pilot projects due to the fact that this funding "overlaps with existing mandatory AML grants". We believe that funding for pilot projects is separate and distinct from other AML funding

sources. This funding is targeted for economic and community development and reuse goals. We strongly support continued funding (from the General Fund) for these pilot projects. We also recommend concerted action to reauthorize fee collection under Title IV of SMCRA IMCC also supports a continuation of funding for the watershed cooperative agreements at \$1.55 million. Much valuable work has been accomplished through this program, especially given the matching funds that come from other sources besides OSMRE's share for these worthwhile projects.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement on the Office of Surface Mining's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019. We also endorse the statement of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML), which goes into greater detail regarding the implications of OSMRE's funding for the States and Tribes related to the AML program. We would be happy to answer any questions.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

The Izaak Walton League of America appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony for the record concerning appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for various agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the subcommittee. The League is a national, nonprofit organization with more than 40,000 members and 200 local chapters nationwide. Our members are committed to advancing common sense policies that safeguard wildlife and habitat, support community-based conservation, and address pressing environmental issues. The following pertains to programs administered by the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Environmental Protection Agency.

DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND THE INTERIOR, LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The League requests a total of \$524 million for the LWCF in fiscal year 2020. It is important to invest in strategic land acquisition to protect critical habitat, secure valuable in-holdings, and expand recreational access to existing Federal public lands. Dramatically reducing funding for LWCF, as the President's budget requests, will not provide meaningful savings to taxpayers because LWCF is capitalized with revenue from off-shore oil and gas drilling. As importantly, diverting resources from LWCF to offset other expenditures from the general treasury directly undermines the fundamental premise on which LWCF is based. The common sense premise that a portion of the revenue generated by natural resource extraction should be invested in conserving other natural resources at the national, regional, and State levels is the foundation of the fund's enactment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

The League joins other members of the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), a diverse coalition of 22 wildlife, sporting, conservation, and scientific organizations representing approximately 15 million of members and supporters, in requesting \$514 million for operations and maintenance of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

The League and CARE groups appreciate the importance of fiscal discipline and making strategic spending decisions. CARE annually develops an estimate of the operations and maintenance budget that is necessary to effectively provide visitor services and law enforcement and conserve and manage fish, wildlife, and habitat across the refuge system. CARE estimates operations and maintenance needs total \$900 million annually. Although our long-term goal is to make steady progress toward a budget which more accurately reflects demands on the ground, the fiscal year 2020 request balances fiscal responsibility with pressing resource conservation, visitor services, and law enforcement needs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

The League urges the subcommittee to provide at least \$71 million in fiscal year 2020 for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. This amount equals the House subcommittee's appropriation. State Wildlife Grants support proactive conservation projects aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. Experience shows that efforts to restore imperiled wildlife can be particularly contentious and costly when action is taken only after species are formally listed as threatened or endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. State Wildlife Grants augment State

and community-based efforts to safeguard habitat and wildlife before either reaches the tipping point. The Federal investment leverages significant funding from private, State, and local sources.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

The League requests the subcommittee to provide \$657 million to the Park Service in fiscal year 2020 for addressing chronically underfunded maintenance and repairs. The Park Services estimates that more than \$11 billion is needed to adequately address repairs and maintenance on roads, buildings, utility systems, and others structures and facilities that have been deferred due to budget constraints. America's national parks provide millions of visitors with world-class experiences every year and have preserved some of our most iconic landscapes. Maintaining the infrastructure within our parks allows visitors to experience nature, history, and all the wonders of our national park system safely and comfortably. Years of underfunding have led to this huge backlog of maintenance and now is the time to begin to seriously address the needs of our world class parks.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

The League supports providing \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in fiscal year 2020. The Great Lakes provide drinking water to 35 million people and support jobs and recreational opportunities for millions more. However, the health of the Great Lakes is seriously threatened by untreated sewage, toxic pollution, invasive species, and habitat loss. The eight States that border the Lakes and many non-governmental organizations have invested significant resources to safeguard these national treasures. Sustained Federal investment at a significant level is also needed or the problems will only get worse and cost even more to fix.

Cleaning up the Great Lakes will provide many benefits, including economic development in the region. Great Lakes restoration efforts produce at least \$2 in economic return for every \$1 invested. Restoration projects create jobs for engineers, landscape architects, and construction workers and improve water quality, support outdoor recreation, and reestablish healthy fish and wildlife habitat. These results lay the foundation for long-term prosperity in the region.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

The League asks that the subcommittee to fund the Chesapeake Bay Program at \$73 million in fiscal year 2020, matching last year's enacted spending. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and one of the largest in the world. More than 16 million people live within the Bay watershed. The Bay is a critical economic, environmental, and recreational resource for these residents and the Nation as a whole. However, the productivity and health of this nationally significant resource remain seriously impaired by nutrient pollution from multiple sources throughout the watershed.

The EPA and States have launched a significant and rigorous effort to cut pollution and improve water quality. Few would argue that implementing the total maximum daily load (TMDL) will not be challenging or not require significant investment to reduce point and non-point source pollution. However, the president's budget request is inadequate and fails to support States, local governments, and other partners as they implement the TMDL. The League believes it is essential to provide technical and financial assistance to achieve results on-the-ground and secure a foundation for sustained pollution reductions over the long-term.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, SOUTH FLORIDA GEOGRAPHIC INITIATIVE

The League respectfully requests the subcommittee appropriate \$1.7 million for the South Florida Geographic Initiative for Fiscal Year 2020. The administration's request does not meet the minimum amount needed annually to reduce polluted discharges from leaking septic systems and other toxic cesspits, adequately restore the Everglades, and protect drinking water for 8 million Americans living in Florida. Economic benefits that would come from restoration of the Everglades are astronomical. Gains in biodiversity, groundwater purification and aquifer storage, increasing property values, park visitation, carbon sequestration, and improved fish and wildlife habitat that would come from a full restoration of the Everglades, as described in the Army Corps' Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, would drive an economic increase of \$46.5 billion. The EPA investment in the restoration of south Florida and the Everglades is an important piece of the strategy to restore traditional water flows, protect drinking water, and conserve biodiversity.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, NON-POINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
(CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319)

The League is concerned that the administration has proposed severe reductions and even elimination for Section 319, the Non-point Source Management Program. These reductions are counterproductive as EPA and many States report that non-point source pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems, including harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife. Based on the pressing nature of the problem, it makes sense to invest resources that help States and local governments more aggressively tackle non-point source pollution. The League urges the subcommittee to match last year's funding for Section 319 at \$169 million for fiscal year 2020.

The Izaak Walton League appreciates the opportunity to testify about these important issues.

[This statement was submitted by Jared Mott, Conservation Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

On behalf of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, I am pleased to submit this written testimony on our funding priorities and requests for the fiscal year 2020 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budgets. The S'Klallams entered into the Point-No-Point Treaty with the United States in January of 1855 effectively sanctioning our Tribes unique status as a sovereign nation and solidifying our legal standing in accordance with the U.S. Constitution. Our Tribe relinquished vast tracks of our Tribal homelands and resources in exchange for the U.S. Government's solemn promise to uphold and protect our Tribes inherent right to Self-Governance and to provide adequate resources to secure the well-being of our community and Tribal citizens. This trust responsibility is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the U.S. to protect Tribal treaty rights, lands, assets and resources.

Despite the U.S. Government's trust obligations and our Tribes legally sanctioned rights, Federal funding and unmet needs in Tribal communities is at a crisis level as documented by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights recently released 2018 Report, "Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans." The Report found that inadequate Federal funding undermines Tribal sovereignty and that the Federal Government's failure to uphold their trust obligations has resulted in American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) facing disproportionate challenges as compared to other Americans in health, education and employment outcomes that are exacerbated by insufficient funding. In order to address these inequities and trust violations, the Commission has recommended that Congress substantially invest in AI/AN programs and services.

The need for providing steady, equitable, non-discretionary funding directly to Tribal Nations to support core government programs and services is well documented and we have shown time and again that the Federal investment in our community is a good investment. Self-Governance has allowed us to redesign programs and services and utilize the Federal investment in a way that best addresses the needs of our community. Some of our more notable successes include most of our Tribal citizens seeking secondary or higher education degrees, the growth of our Tribal businesses and revenue and the Tribe's status as the second largest employer in our region, the Northern Olympic Peninsula. The success we have attained demonstrates that continued Federal support is invaluable to growing sustainable Tribal economies and bolstering surrounding regional economies. Yet, as we seek to identify opportunities that support our goal of self-reliance, we must also acknowledge the barriers that impede our ability to reach our full potential, including, the severe and persistent underfunding of Tribal programs and services despite the trust obligation, the absence of data to support funding requests for Tribal programs and services, management weaknesses¹ and the consistently late distribution of funding. All of these, and many other factors attribute to the persistent shortfalls and overwhelming unmet needs/unfulfilled Federal obligations in Tribal communities.² Data collection for Tribal programs throughout the Federal system is substandard or non-existent and it is difficult, if not impossible, to show program success and justify the need for program increases if funding is not received in a timely fashion. Re-

¹GAO High Risk Reports on BIA, IHS and BIE—GAO-17-589T, GAO-17-790T, and GAO-18-616T.

²GAO-19-87 Interior Should Address Factors Hindering Tribal Administration of Federal Programs.

cently, the BIA announced a moratorium on the collection of unmet needs data for Tribal programs and services. We view this action by the agency to be inconsistent with their trust responsibility. The agencies need to be held accountable and directed to work in partnership with Tribes to collect data that quantifies the true unmet needs in Indian country with credible metrics that will provide an accurate profile of the unmet needs in Indian country.

Tribal Specific Appropriation Priorities

1. \$101.4 million increase for the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) and Beyond GAP EPA
2. \$50 million Puget Sound EPA

\$101.4 million increase—Indian General Assistance Program (GAP)—and Beyond GAP EPA.—Although our Treaty guarantees our Tribe and its citizens the right to hunt, fish, and gather shellfish in our usual and accustomed areas that right is meaningless if there are no elk to hunt, fish to catch, or clams/oysters and berries to harvest. The Indian General Assistance Program has allowed us to make tremendous strides in advancing techniques that identify and reduce pollution, improve water quality, assess the status of public health needs, restore habitat, and replenish depleted fish and shellfish stocks, that are on the brink of extinction. The Beyond GAP initiative will move the Federal/Tribal partnership from capacity building to enable implementation of comprehensive and consistent environmental programs.

\$50 million—Puget Sound EPA.—The Geographic/Ecosystems program provides funding for our Tribe to protect and restore the Puget Sound ecosystem, including, restoration of the Olympia oyster habitat with hatchery-propagated oyster seed, habitat restoration, floodplain restoration and protection. This funding enables Tribes to implement a wide range of projects aimed at improving the health of Puget Sound and Tribal Treaty Resources.

National Requests and Recommendations for the BIA and IHS

1. Advanced Appropriations for Tribal Programs and Services
2. Increase Funding for Tribal Base Budgets/Recurring Programs
3. Invest in Tribal Infrastructure

Advanced Appropriations for Tribal Programs and Services.—Continuing Resolutions and late distributions of funding, sequestration, across the board budgetary rescissions and/or reductions, spending caps and numerous and prolonged government shutdowns have further exacerbated the funding crisis in Indian country. Although Tribal Nations are resilient, the abrupt disruptions of our governmental services due to a delay or lapse in Federal funding attenuates our ability to protect the health and well being of our communities and citizens. The recent government shutdown put our Treaty rights at risk jeopardizing the survival of our resources and, in turn, our culture, inhibited our economic development potential, our ability to recruit and retain staff, and delayed the process for the reacquisition of our Tribal homelands.

In order to keep programs and services fully operational, we had to identify alternative funding resources whether through Tribal funds, loans or other means without any assurances that we would be reimbursed for these expenditures. Providing appropriations 1 year in advance will mitigate the adverse financial effects of Federal budgetary uncertainties on Tribes and enable the BIA and IHS to uphold their fiduciary obligations and more adequately and effectively serve AI/AN. Tribes will also be able to engage in more effective strategic planning, spend funds more efficiently, grow our Tribal economy and businesses and increase the quality of care and well-being of our Tribal citizens and community.

Increase Funding for Tribal Base Budgets/Recurring Programs.—For over two decades, there has been funding reductions/permanent rescissions of numerous Tribal programs and services in order to pay for tax cuts, wars, natural disasters and technology upgrades. These budgetary rescissions are permanent, unsupportable reductions to Tribal base programs which are core governmental functions. When you factor in the inflationary rate, Tribes are not even maintaining level funding—we are losing ground. Compounding the fiscal volatility of Federal funding, there has been a growing trend among agencies to fund Tribal programs and services with grant dollars rather than provide base recurring funding. Grant funding undermines Self-Governance because it is short term funding which creates uncertainty in planning, imposes extensive regulation and reporting requirements and restricts the use of indirect costs. We would urge Congress to increase funding for Tribal base budgets by funding Tribal Priority Allocations and other Recurring Programs because it

will benefit all Tribes as opposed to creating more grants that will only benefit a few Tribes.

Invest in Tribal Infrastructure.—Tribal governments and their citizens face profound infrastructure challenges that are acute and longstanding. The breadth and severity of the unmet infrastructure needs are measured by the high rates of injury and death in our communities. Decaying, unsafe infrastructure is not only a public health issue but an impediment to economic development and job growth and reflects a failure of the government to uphold its trust obligations. Increased Federal funding and investments could effectuate Tribal infrastructure development efforts.

National Requests and Recommendations for the BIA

1. \$10 million Natural Resources TPA
2. \$50 million Economic Development TPA
3. \$25 million Indian Guaranteed Loan Program/Surety Bonds

\$10 million—Natural Resources (TPA).—Climate change is having profound impacts on Tribes and our Tribal Treaty Rights are at risk because of our close relationship with nature we are the most at risk. The vitality and sustainability of our Natural Resources is integral to the health and welfare of our Tribal citizens, communities, culture and religious practices and economies. The Federal investment in Tribal Natural Resources can only continue to foster Tribal self-sufficiency and support Tribal economies by cultivating cross jurisdictional partnerships with State and local governments that create jobs and promote and advance trade. This investment also advances several ancillary but equally important cultural and religious practices, creates community cohesiveness and improves the environmental conditions on our Tribal homelands and in surrounding communities.

\$50 million—Economic Development (TPA).—Increased funding, reduced regulatory burdens and greater access to financing tools and incentives will allow us to continue to diversify our successful business portfolio and expand our revenue generating opportunities resulting in a stronger Tribal economy and less dependence on the Federal component of our resources. A \$50 million investment in economic development would allow our Tribe to leverage funds and invest in business opportunities projected to create 500 jobs for Tribal citizens and our non-Indian neighbors.

\$25 million—Indian Guaranteed Loan Program/Surety Bonds.—The Federal Government is in a unique position to help advance Tribal projects and provide sustainable economic opportunities for Indian businesses and Tribal governments through the Loan Subsidy Program and Surety Bonding for Indian contractors. Loan guarantees are an attractive financial tool because Tribes are able to leverage limited Federal funding in a prudent budget effective way and promote economic growth by investing in projects that are capable of generating their own revenue streams. Federal credit programs should continue to facilitate Tribal access to private capital markets where Tribes frequently encounter market resistance to conventional lending.

National Requests and Recommendations for the IHS

1. \$189 million Increase Funding to Support Current Services
2. \$407 million Increase Funding for Purchased and Referred Care

\$189 million Increase Funding to Support Current Services.—The Federal responsibility to provide healthcare was prepaid by the Tribes with their land and resources. To maintain current services, factors such as the inflationary rate, pay costs, contract support costs, population growth and staffing needs for recently constructed facilities all need to be fully-funded. When these mandatory factors are not funded, Tribes must supplement programs with their own limited revenue, or chose between limiting services or shutting down services completely. It is critical that the IHS budget honors and respects the Federal trust obligation.

\$407 million Purchased and Referred Care (PRC).—Most IHS and Tribally-operated direct care facilities do not provide the required emergency and specialty care services so Tribes are forced to turn to the private sector to fulfill this need. PRC funds are used to purchase essential healthcare services, including inpatient and outpatient care, routine emergency ambulatory care, transportation and medical support services, such as diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, laboratory, nutrition and pharmacy services. When PRC funds are depleted, services are denied to Tribal patients.

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe continues to support the requests and recommendations of our Regional and National Indian Organizations. Thank you.

[This statement was submitted by W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JOHN GATES, CITY OF GREELEY MAYOR
SUPPORT FOR EPA WATERSENSE AND BOR WATERSMART PROGRAMS

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

The City of Greeley is writing to respectfully request your support to continue to fund, at or above fiscal year 2019 levels, two programs we know to be a critical support of demand management and responsible water conservation efforts in the West: the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program, and the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program.

In keeping with Greeley's century-long tradition as a water conservation leader in Colorado, Greeley has partnered for more than a decade with the EPA in its WaterSense programs to encourage, educate, and facilitate water conservation both indoors and outdoors. Greeley is engaged in a New Cache Irrigation Co. water sharing pilot project that is funded by WaterSMART grants and stakeholder contributions; a project that is key in the preservation of highly productive farm lands in the Greeley area. Greeley Water has also sought 2020–2021 WaterSMART grant matching funds to aid in our efforts to drive customer responsiveness to demand management. The City's Water Department supports Water SMART fixture certification and independent testing. Only WaterSense toilets, fixtures and showerheads are sold in Colorado, and it would be a step backwards if this program were defunded.

These Federal water programs are essential to how the West manages a growing population, robust economies, hydraulic variability and water resource scarcity. Further, they are essential to Greeley's on-going efforts to use our limited water resources more efficiently, and limit to the extent possible the need to dry up farms to secure water supply for economic and population growth.

Greeley has supported Colorado's focus on these issues and funding solutions. Greeley strongly supports efforts to more efficiently use scarce water resources, supports Drought Contingency Planning and the exploration of demand management on the Colorado River, and we strongly urge the Federal Government to continue to be our vested partner in this regard. WaterSense and WaterSMART Programs are both important elements in those efforts. We appreciate your consideration of this issue, and urge your support.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of April, 2019



John Gates
Mayor
City of Greeley
John.Gates@Greeleygov.com

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE KARUK TRIBE

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Chairwoman Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	The Honorable Tom Udall Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies 125 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
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Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to request that you support economic development, job creation, and our national heritage by appropriating up to \$141 million in fiscal year 2020

funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). Of this total, we would request that \$60 million support State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), \$20 million support Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), and \$5 million fund a competitive grant program for State or Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to invest in geographic information systems-based mapping of historic resources. SHPOs and THPOs tie our Nation's historic preservation programs together. SHPOs carry out the National Historic Preservation Act, which provides citizens the tools they need to revitalize, rehabilitate, and protect American heritage.

THPOs carry out many of the same functions as SHPOs for Tribal governments. Just as the SHPOs review Federal undertakings on State lands, the THPOs review Federal undertakings on Tribal government lands. Collectively, they exercise responsibilities over a land base exceeding 50 million acres in 30 States, and the HPF is the sole source of dedicated Federal funding for THPOs. More Tribes establish THPO programs each year, representing an exercise of Tribal sovereignty, but funding has not kept pace with this growing number. There were only 12 THPOs when they first received funding in 1996 and today, there are nearly 200 THPOs. As a result, in 2018, 179 Tribes received an average of \$64,000, which was nearly \$20,000 each less than when the program first started. Our recommended \$20 million in fiscal year 2020 for the THPO line item would provide the nearly 200 THPOs an average of \$100,000 to run their programs, which is still meager but would start to close the critical mission gap.

There are two cornerstones of this work. First, reconnecting Native peoples to their cultural heritage, traditions, and places has the power to help heal deep generational wounds. Revitalizing traditions, languages, and practices serves to rebuild critical individual self-worth and community foundations. To continue this work in Indian country, it is essential that THPO programs receive increased funding to meet the increasing need.

Second, funding THPOs and staff creates jobs, generates economic development, and spurs community revitalization. It also facilitates environmental and historic review processes, including for infrastructure and energy permitting. Agencies are required to conduct government-to-government consultation on all actions they take, which means working with tribes to identify potentially affected resources and properties and taking mitigation measures. When agencies and project applicants call, someone must be there to pick up the phone and do the work.

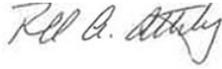
The current level of funding the Karuk Tribe receives only allows for a 0.33 FTE position. This does not meet the baseline need for carrying out primary functions on 1800 acres of Tribal Trust Land. In addition, our large landscape conservation efforts are being applied to a 1.2 million acre landscape. This is not sufficient for meeting the need of the advise and assist role as we move into a new era of shared stewardship. Tying focal species, to landscape and vegetative characteristics, as they relate to sites, features, objects and cultural expressions such as the "pa arrarahi pikyav" (the people's fix the world stories) will be critical to the successful efforts of addressing wildland fire management in a changing climate. Since 2014 our THPO department has grown from this .33 FTE to 3.5 FTE's in 2018 in planning at the 5,500 acre scale. We are on a trajectory to replicate the processes carried out in the Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project throughout the aforementioned 1.2 million acre collaborative planning area. The approval of this project through the NEPA Process without entering objection proceedings provides proof of concept in regards to this shared stewardship model. Stabilizing this capacity will be a critical success factor in progressing this effort to scale. Though this request supports the efforts of THPO's nationwide, Karuk specificity adds to the request that the acreage associated with large landscape conservation endeavors through the principles of shared stewardship be included in the budget formulas for the distribution of these funds.

As the remaining THPO's have not considered this factor in regard to formulation of the program request preceding this Karuk specific ask, and in all fairness, we urge you to consider an additional \$10 million set aside for Tribes engaging in collaborative large landscape conservation efforts.

Funding these historic preservation programs is vital to ensuring that the unvarnished story of America is told. It is an investment in towns and cities throughout the country, helping to improve the economy of these communities by boosting tourism through their historic sites and by leveraging public and private investment in restoring historic buildings. This funding is both an economic and historical imperative that creates construction jobs and protects historic resources that might otherwise be lost forever.

We greatly appreciate the strong support Congress has shown for the preservation of our Nation's heritage. We look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Russell Attebery
Chair, Karuk Tribe

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR
CHIPPEWA INDIANS

On behalf of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, I submit written testimony concerning the Tribe's fiscal year 2020 budget needs within the appropriations of the Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Service. Our Tribe of 4,000 members is located in Vilas, Oneida and Iron Counties Wisconsin. Our Tribe is the largest employer in Vilas County. Together with Tribal enterprises, the Tribe employs 800 individuals, with nearly one in four of our 190 employees paid in full or in part with appropriations made under this subcommittee's jurisdiction. Our reservation has one of the densest concentrations of fresh water in the country and it is our obligation to safeguard the waters, fish, waterfowl, animals and vegetation for our great grandchildren. The bounty we draw from 260 lakes, 71 miles of streams and rivers, approximately 42,000 acres of forested land and roughly 42,000 acres of water and wetlands, help feed our members, improve their health and generate jobs. We also have treaty rights and lands that provide hunting, gathering and fishing opportunities in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan for our members. We are working hard to build and maintain a stable, healthy Tribal community, amid many challenges.

The Tribe thanks the subcommittee for its leadership and bipartisan commitment to Indian Tribes which honors the Nation's trust responsibility to the Indian people. The Tribe appreciates that Congress provided increased funds in fiscal year 2019 for BIA, IHS and EPA programs and the other programs across the Federal Government. The 35-day partial government shutdown put a lot of stress on our community which we never want to experience again.

My testimony addresses EPA, BIA, BIE and IHS programs that are vital to the Lac du Flambeau Band. There is an interconnectedness among these programs which help promote healthy Tribal members and communities; essential building blocks for stable communities. It is also essential to understand that clean, air water and land are required in order for us to have a healthy community. Without these key ingredients, and adequate Federal resources, our members cannot hunt, fish and gather animals, plants and medicines which are safe for them to eat.

I. NATURAL RESOURCES (EPA AND BIA)

The Tribe has one of the leading Tribal Natural Resources programs in the Country. Our program includes a Fish Hatchery for several species of fish, Fisheries Management, Waterfowl habitat protection, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Wild Rice Restoration, Conservation Law Enforcement, Wildlife protection, Historic Preservation, and numerous environmental programs, including Water Resources. Our Natural Resources Department employs fish/wildlife/wild rice technicians, fish hatchery operators, hydrologists, environmental specialists and administrators, many of whom are paid in full or in part with EPA and BIA funds and critical to our work protecting the resources that were promised to us in our Treaties. We urge the subcommittee to increase fiscal year 2020 funds for the BIA and EPA Natural Resources programs that are critical to protecting our culture, our health and our economy; part of Wisconsin's \$19 billion hunting, fishing, recreation and tourism industry.

The subcommittee and Congress has once again restored \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for fiscal year 2019 (flat funded for the last few years). Even with existing funding, we struggle to meet the demands we face to maintain clean air, water and lands from the many contaminants that threaten our community. The highest concentrations of mercury tainted lakes are in Wisconsin's northern most counties, including Vilas and Oneida. Minnesota and Wisconsin again lead the Nation with mercury-contaminated lakes. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources continues to list 146 lakes where fish health mercury advisories remain in place. Our lands and waters are also threatened by mineral exploration and mineral leasing sites, combined with relaxed regulatory enforcement by State and Federal agencies. There are approximately 100 Mines, Mineral Exploration and

Mineral leasing sites within the Lake Superior Watershed. We cannot eat contaminated fish that are otherwise a staple of our diet. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is another threat to our treaty protected resources. CWD has been detected in deer in our ceded territories and is moving closer to the Reservation's deer population. We need Federal resources if we are to properly monitor, manage and report ongoing environmental threats.

A. Underground Storage Tank Fund (LUST)

The \$1–\$2 million appropriation available to Tribes for cleanup under the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program is inadequate for Indian Country. Insufficient funds result in ongoing contamination of ground waters that threaten Tribal resources. We have spent almost a decade working with State and EPA officials to clean up the Tower Standard/Haskell Lake, a LUST site located within the Tribe's exterior boundaries. This site is contaminated with petroleum, benzene, lead, dibromoethane, and other contaminants. EPA recently estimated that \$1.7 million was required for “interim” action measures for the site. This estimate would consume nearly the entire fiscal year 2019 LUST cleanup budget appropriated for the Nation's 573 federally-recognized Tribes. The Haskell Lake is one of 23 LUST sites on our reservation alone.

In 2015, we engaged in consultation with EPA and together we agreed on the steps to take to assess and remediate the Haskell Lake site. Since then, EPA has walked back most of the commitments it made to us and reversed an earlier commitment that it would clean up the LUST site pursuant to Tribal standards. We do not have confidence in EPA's latest recommended interim action because the site assessment EPA relies on is incomplete in its content and because an associated evaluation omits EPA's own data regarding known contaminants of concern (COC). We encourage the subcommittee to instruct EPA in report language to fully engage in meaningful consultation with Tribes, especially Tribes that have “treatment as a State” status under the Clean Water Act, as we do, and honor Tribal cleanup standards when developing interim and final action plans to remediate LUST sites located on reservations. Please increase funds for EPA's LUST program dedicated to Tribes to include funding for site cleanup and Tribal program support.

B. Trust-Natural Resources Management

In fiscal year 2019, Congress appropriated \$206.8 million for the BIA's Trust-Natural Resources Management programs, a \$2.7 million increase from fiscal year 2018. We greatly appreciate the increase, but given the importance of natural resources to our culture and economy, more Federal resources are required. Our Tribe alone needs nearly a \$500,000 increase for our Tribal Fish Hatchery Operations and Tribal Management/Development Program for fiscal year 2020.

C. Circle of Flight: Wetlands Waterfowl Program

We urge the subcommittee to continue to provide support for the BIA Circle of Flight Program. This modest BIA program supports Tribal efforts throughout the Great Lakes Region to restore and preserve wetlands and waterfowl habitat and enhances wild rice gathering within Tribal territories throughout the three States along the Mississippi flyway.

D. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Thank you for restoring the \$300 million appropriation for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. For the Tribes of Wisconsin, the Great Lakes represent the lifeblood of our culture and the foundation of our economies. Please consider an increase in funding for the Initiative in the fiscal year 2020 budget so Tribes can do more.

E. EPA Tribal General Assistance Program

For fiscal year 2019, Congress approved \$65.4 million for the Tribal general assistance program (GAP). The Tribal GAP program provides base funds to assist Tribes build their environmental capacity to assess environmental conditions, utilize available data and build their environmental programs to meet local needs. While we strongly support the Tribal GAP funding, that funding is limited to capacity building and it is critical that we expand Tribal EPA funding to include program implementation.

II. BIA AND BIE APPROPRIATIONS

A. Law Enforcement

The Tribe is working collaboratively with our State and local partners to address drug trafficking and gang activity on and off the reservation. There remains a great

need for cooperation among the Tribe, the State and Federal law enforcement agencies to address the significant impact of drug trafficking on the public safety of our community.

As a Tribe in a Public Law 280 State, we have long suffered from the lack of sufficient support by the Federal Government for our law enforcement and Tribal court needs. We have one full time judge who handle a range of cases ranging from domestic abuse orders to child support enforcement. In addition, we have three court clerks and a prosecutor. We greatly appreciate the Committee's support of \$13 million for Tribal justice systems for Tribes in Public Law 280 States. We provide an important service to the people of our Reservation that if we did not perform, the State courts would have to perform. We urge Congress to continue this funding in the fiscal year 2020 budget.

Related to this is the need to provide specific funding for conservation law enforcement officers. Our conservation officers, provide a critical role in the management of our natural resources and sometimes are the first line in identifying drug and other illegal activities on the Reservation.

B. Indian Education

In fiscal year 2019, Congress maintained \$34.9 million for Adult Scholarships and \$2.9 million for special higher education scholarships. We recommend this subcommittee continue to support and increase funds for these programs that provide needed support to Tribal members seeking higher education.

The Lac du Flambeau Public School and Lakeland Union High School educate our Tribal youth. The High School is approximately 23 percent Native American and 86 percent of high school graduates went on to attend 4- and 2-year colleges/technical schools, 9 percent entered the workforce or pursued other activities and 5 percent entered the military. For this reason, we appreciate the Committee's continued funding of the Johnson O'Malley Program (\$14.9 million for fiscal year 2019). JOM funds address the unique cultural needs of Indian students attending public schools through a supplemental program of services planned, developed and approved by the Local Indian Education Committee, comprised of parents of eligible Indian students. Indian children deserve the supplemental programs that JOM funds enable that honor and celebrate their Native heritage and help them grow into confident, well-adjusted adults who give back to their families.

C. Road Maintenance Program

The Tribe appreciates Congress including a \$1.1 million increase in funding for the Road Maintenance Program for fiscal year 2019. We believe a \$10 million increase is justified for fiscal year 2020. Recent funding increases have been prioritized by Congress for use on gravel school bus routes, thus limiting the Tribes that receive additional funds. At \$90,000 annually, we receive about \$1,285 per mile from the Program to maintain our BIA-owned roads. Our budget is actually closer to \$2 million annually. A year's road maintenance budget can be consumed in the winter months alone removing snow and salting/sanding roads to ensure freedom of movement. Transportation barriers undermine Federal and Tribal efforts to improve Native health, educate our youth and attract businesses and jobs to remote, rural communities like ours. The Road Maintenance Program is a jobs program and well-maintained roads save lives. Please consider unrestricted increases to this important public safety program.

III. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Tribe appreciates the Committee's commitment to increase funding for the IHS. Our IHS allocations account for about one-third of our health program budget. The Tribe operates the Peter Christensen Health Center, Dental Program, a Family Resource Center, and an In-patient Treatment Center with a total annual operating budget in excess of \$24 million. These programs are vital to ensuring the support and preservation of family life and wellbeing by providing such services as outpatient mental health, inpatient & outpatient alcohol and other drug abuse, and psychological consults. The Health Center provides quality healthcare and offers a full range of family medical services by Board Certified family physicians, advanced practice nurse practitioner and physician-assistants serving 5,500 patients and providing 48,000 patient appointments annually. Together, our Tribal Health Program employs a staff of 150 individuals. The Tribe asks that Congress continue to prioritize funding increases to the IHS budget in fiscal year 2020.

We are seeing how important proactive and preventive health services are for our community. In particular, like the rest of the Nation, our community continues to deal with the opioid epidemic. It has tragically claimed the lives of Lac Du Flambeau members. Approximately 60 percent of the Tribe's annual births result in

opioid-addicted babies. In 2017 alone, 48 of the Tribe's 80 births resulted in opioid-addicted babies. Early treatment is critical. We urge the subcommittee to increase funds for preventive health programs such as Drug Endangered Children (DEC) and Drug Endangered Elders (DEE). These programs can save lives and empower our Tribe to help our citizens address addictions and mental health issues, especially targeting our Tribal youth. Please continue to prioritize increases in fiscal year 2020 IHS funding for Hospitals and Clinics, mental health, substance abuse treatment and P/RC funds so that we can take a proactive stance by investing wisely in preventive health services.

We thank the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for all its support and for the opportunity to provide written testimony concerning our fiscal year 2020 budget needs within the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

[This statement was submitted by Joseph Wildcat, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS

The League of American Orchestras urges the Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to support \$167.5 million in fiscal year 2020 funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Bipartisan support in Congress for the ongoing work of the NEA has been especially appreciated in the past several years, and we are grateful for the subcommittee's leadership. Increased support in fiscal year 2020 will enable the agency to provide more direct grants, which will boost meaningful arts participation for more Americans.

The League of American Orchestras leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals includes world-renowned orchestras, community groups, summer festivals, student and youth ensembles, businesses serving orchestras, and individuals who love symphonic music. As orchestras navigate the myriad changes coursing through American society, they are continually honing the ways the orchestral experience serves communities. NEA support via *Art Works* and *Challenge America* grants helps to expand the capacity of orchestras to present concerts and programs to communities of all sizes, and each NEA direct grant dollar leverages more than \$9 of additional non-Federal or private investment. The following ten orchestral projects from fiscal year 2019 total \$155,000 in direct Federal support and offer a sampling of the remarkable orchestral partnerships serving the public in responsive ways.

National Endowment for the Arts funding increases public access to the arts

The NEA is committed to helping small- and mid-sized organizations extend the reach of the arts to populations whose arts opportunities are limited by geography, economics, or disability. The Kansas City Symphony, employing 80 full-time musicians and 35 full-time staff, offers a series of free chamber music concerts featuring symphony musicians performing a wide range of music, from baroque to contemporary, that is not readily available elsewhere in the community. Curated by the musicians, these weekday, early evening, casual programs are designed to remove barriers of formality, access, and financial ability, and they draw more than 1,200 people to every performance. Nearly one-third of audience members has the opportunity to experience a new musical form and enjoy the cultural richness of their own community for the first time, thanks in part to an NEA Art Works grant, which leads to broad financial support for the symphony from foundations, businesses, and individuals throughout the community.

The Adrian Symphony Orchestra's Challenge America grant will support a week of activities specifically designed for youth and the rural Lenawee County community in Michigan. The symphony, with a small but dedicated staff of four, will present *Carmina Burana*, featuring local choirs and soloists Allison Prost and Jonathan Lasch, as well a new work, *Broad Band of Light*, by American composer Conni Ellis with soloist Stephen Seifert on the mountain dulcimer. The project and ancillary activities would not otherwise be possible without additional support, and the NEA grant and its multiplying effect mean that local teachers will be able to receive a pre-concert guide with information about the orchestra, music director, composers, guest artist, and the mountain dulcimer, and the orchestra will be able to present a Young People's Concert for children in kindergarten through second grade, offering unique opportunities to connect with the soloists and composer.

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale (BSO&C), which employs 90 staff and musicians, received a Challenge America grant to support performances and community engagement in honor of Black History Month and the 60th anniversary of the founding of Motown Records. In addition to performing at the Alberta Bair

Theater, guest artists Sydney Morton and Jarran Muse visited the St. Charles Indian Mission on the rural Crow Indian Reservation; the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (a therapeutic and residential treatment center for children with emotional and behavioral challenges); Riverside Middle and Senior High Schools, which are Title I schools in Billings; and the Montana State Women's Prison to work with the women's prison choir. The program included discussions about racism and discrimination, being a friend to people who may be different from you, music performances that included Motown hits such as *What's Going On*, and discussion of the history of Motown music. The BSO&C is committed to bringing musical experiences to underserved communities, and this program in particular was designed to facilitate the Billings community engaging with and learning from artists of color.

National Endowment for the Arts advances equity, diversity, and inclusion

In addition to increasing public access to the arts, support from the National Endowment for the Arts provides opportunities to recognize and celebrate the diverse backgrounds that comprise communities throughout the country. The Quad City Symphony Orchestra (QCSO) received a Challenge America grant for a performance and related engagement activity by the Kaia String Quartet. The quartet will perform at the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley Teen Center in Moline, Illinois as part of a QCSO series focused on work by Latino composers, and it will also visit Bicentennial Elementary and the bilingual Lincoln-Irving Elementary that serves Floreciente Neighborhood students. The symphony, which is supported by a staff of 12 people, is also partnering with the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to promote the event to the broader Latino community and provide discounted tickets through their member businesses. A portion of the ticket price will benefit the Club, and donations will be requested at the event for Club's cello programs.

With 7 full-time staff and 7 part-time project-based staff employees, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra will use an Art Works grant to support a free community event featuring Mexican-American author Sandra Cisneros, composer Derek Bermel, and mezzo-soprano Paulina Villarreal. Cisneros will discuss her experiences growing up amidst two cultures and how those experiences informed her award-winning novel, *The House on Mango Street*. Cisneros' discussion will be augmented by a performance of excerpts from Bermel's *Mango Suite*, which was inspired by the book. The planning process has enabled the Princeton Symphony to partner with organizations such as the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Princeton Community Housing Group, and Corner House Youth Leadership programs, as well as the Princeton and Trenton Public Schools. The symphony has taken such an interest due to the recent significant increase of Latino family immigration to the Princeton and surrounding Mercer County area. Princeton Symphony hopes the performance of *Mango Suite* will be an opportunity to address the experiences of immigrant families and work toward creating a more diverse and welcoming environment for all. At the event, audience members will have an opportunity to talk with Cisneros one-on-one, and on the day prior Bermel will visit local schools with significant immigrant populations to lead students in songwriting workshops exploring these same issues of identity and assimilation.

The New Haven Symphony Orchestra (NHSO), which employs 9 full-time staff and 229 part-time employees, is utilizing its Art Works grant to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Marian Anderson's April 9, 1939, concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The program will take place at Lyman Center for the Performing Arts at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven and will feature celebrated artists Kristen Renee Young and Harolyn Blackwell and include orchestral works like *Old and Lost Rivers* by Tobias Picker; an arrangement of traditional spirituals by Joel Martin; *Lincoln Portrait*, *Down a Country Lane*, and *John Henry* by Aaron Copland; *Hip-Hop Essay #1* by Daniel Bernard Romain; and Joseph Schwantner's *New Morning for the World*. Accompanying visual images will be curated by Peabody Award-winning broadcaster, producer, and director Elliott Forrest. Students from local public schools will also have the opportunity to perform side-by-side with orchestra musicians, and members of the NHSO's Harmony Fellowship for Underrepresented Musicians will perform as well. New Haven's Mayor, the honorable Toni Harp; the Reverend Jerry Streets; and SCSU faculty will serve on a pre-concert panel that will discuss the music and the historical context of the program.

National Endowment for the Arts supports youth engagement

Lifelong engagement with the arts begins early, and the NEA has been a strong supporter of arts education and projects that foster youth engagement with art. The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra's Artist Development Program is de-

signed to enhance the artistic growth of its student participants and increase their comprehension of and skill in orchestral music. An Art Works grant will serve 100 percent of the youth orchestra musicians—a total of 116 students from the Greater Bay Area region, from Sacramento to Santa Cruz. The program includes intensive weekly coaching by musicians of the San Francisco Symphony and collaboration with internationally renowned guest artists such as composer John Adams. The project arranges for the youth orchestra to perform free of charge in community settings, for senior groups, for a holiday concert for young children, and for the biannual Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival, which convenes half a dozen regional youth ensembles with a culminating concert that benefits homeless and undeserved youth. In addition to this performance-based activity, the program also provides paid apprenticeships to prepare interested youth orchestra members for careers as music librarians, personnel managers, and arts administrators. Apprentices work closely with San Francisco Symphony staff up to 20 hours per week to receive on-the-job training and learn skills not available through arts administration curricula.

The El Paso Symphony also received an Art Works grant for its youth orchestra, which will facilitate the first of an annual learning and performing festival in El Paso, the Southwest Youth Orchestra Festival, for underserved youth in the Southwest U.S. and Northern Mexico region. The week-long youth orchestra festival will allow youth ensembles to come together as one voice to learn, study, and perform music. The festival will provide students the opportunity to learn from music instructors and conductors other than their own in an intense musical “boot-camp” setting. Auditions will place participants into groups with the goal of creating ensembles of varying cultures, ethnicity, and heritage. Groups will perform separately and in a joint group orchestra in three to four different venues.

The National Endowment for the Arts supports contemporary works and living composers

Many orchestras are devoted to expanding their contemporary repertoire to offer a broad selection of musical styles to their communities. The NEA is helping several orchestras support the work of contemporary composers. The Utah Symphony & Opera (USUO), with 52 full-time and 15 part-time staff, embraces the work of living composers as a way of enhancing both musicians’ and the public’s understanding of and enthusiasm for classical music. An Art Works grant will support a performance project highlighting works by Pierre Boulez, Vivian Fung, Zhou Tian, Joan Tower, and Andrew Norman. Chinese-American composer Zhou Tian, a 2018 GRAMMY nominee, has been commissioned for a piece to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad. Andrew Norman, Musical America’s 2017 Composer of the Year, is USUO’s first Composer-in-Association in 2018–19. Two of Mr. Norman’s works, *Suspend* and *Play*, will be performed by Utah Symphony during this season. Both Zhou and Norman will spend time working with students, providing valuable insight into the creative process, and inspiring members of the community to engage more deeply with music.

Another Art Works recipient is the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO), which, with its more 34 full-time staff, 13 part-time staff, and 21 musicians, inaugurated Tapestry19, a festival celebrating life stories through music. Programming included premiere performances of new works such as a collaboration (*Let the Crows Come*) by Minneapolis-based Bharatanatyam dancer and choreographer Ashwini Ramaswamy and composer, DJ, and author Jace Clayton; *A Requiem for Zula* by composer and interdisciplinary artist PaviElle French in a tribute to her mother, who grew up in St. Paul’s historically African-American Rondo neighborhood; a new work by composer and clarinetist Kinan Azmeh which expanded on his previous work *Do Not Repeat After Me*, about the collective memories of growing up in Syria in the 1980s; and a new work, *Say Home*, by Beecher, inspired by the poetry of Chris Santiago, the son of Filipino immigrants. For his piece, Beecher conducted interviews with 47 community members and made 26 visits to 13 elementary schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul where he integrated brief student audio responses into a brand-new work that was given its world premiere at each of the school visits.

Thank you for this opportunity to illustrate the tremendous value of NEA support for the communities that orchestras serve in every corner of our country. We applaud the NEA’s national leadership in promoting public engagement with high-quality artistry, and we urge you to increase our Nation’s creative potential and access to the arts by approving \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts in fiscal year 2020.

[This statement was submitted by Jesse Rosen, President and CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

On behalf of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes, I submit this testimony for the record for the fiscal year 2020 budgets for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Service (IHS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I am Frances Charles, Chairwoman, an elected position that I have been honored to hold for the past 13 years. My testimony identifies our most urgent Tribal-specific funding needs. We are also supporting the Regional and National budget requests which will benefit the Lower Elwha citizens and community.

TRIBAL-SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

Bureau of Indian Affairs \$5.43 Million

1. \$4.972 Million Dam Removal and Fisheries Restoration—Public Law 102-495, Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act
 - a. \$702,000—Salmon Hatchery O&M
 - b. \$270,000—Flood Control Levee O&M
 - c. \$4 million—Land Acquisition
2. \$267,000—Tribal Court Enhancement and Implementation of Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
3. \$191,000—Tiwahe Initiative—Tribe seeks to fully exercise its jurisdiction under existing law, in its own court system, over all cases arising under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and to become a licensing agency for foster homes

Indian Health Service \$500,000—Mental Health and Chemical Dependency programs

Environmental Protection Agency \$536,000—Environmental Programs

1. \$125,000—General Assistance Grant (GAP)
2. \$ 81,000—Clean Water Act § 106 Grant
3. \$180,000—Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Implementation Grant
4. \$150,000—PSP Tribal Capacity Grant

Contract Support Costs—Past, Present and Future

We appreciate that the Appropriators fully support the BIA and IHS estimated CSC needs in a separate indefinite account that will ensure the continuance of fully funding this priority. Tribes agree that this structure achieves the Nation's legal obligation to fully pay CSC and the trust and treaty obligations to Tribes.

Indian Programs Advance Appropriation Act (IPAAA)

The BIA, IHS and Bureau of Indian Education like most Federal agencies use appropriations in the year they are enacted. However, the recent lack of “regular order” in the appropriations process has resulted in a problematic cycle of continuing resolutions and shutdowns. Why should Tribes continue to be the greatest casualty when the legislative and administrative branches of the United States Government have policy differences? Tribes were crippled in 2019 far beyond the imagination and expectation of not only this subcommittee but the entire Congress—just like we were during the 16-day shutdown in 2013. The IPAAA is modeled on the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 and the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015. It would move IHS and BIA programs, as well as ‘638’ contract support costs, to an advance appropriations cycle beginning in fiscal year 2020.

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE BACKGROUND

The Lower Elwha Indian Reservation is located at the mouth of the Elwha River along the Strait of Juan de Fuca on the northern Olympic Peninsula, about 8 miles west of the City of Port Angeles, Washington. The Lower Elwha Tribe has roughly 820 members and a total land base-Reservation and adjacent trust lands-of about 1,000 acres. We are a salmon people with fishing rights in a large expanse of marine and fresh waters, reserved in the 1855 Treaty of Point No Point. Only in recent years have we made strides in our economic development, and in the long term we believe our prospects will be tied to natural resources restoration and preservation in an ecologically rich region where an extraction-based economy is well past its prime.

LOWER ELWHA TRIBAL-SPECIFIC FUNDING REQUESTS

\$5.43 Million—Bureau of Indian Affairs

1. *\$4.972 Million—Dam Removal and Fisheries Restoration*—We were the leading advocate for the removal of the two hydro-electric dams on the Elwha River. In accordance with Congress's direction in the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act of 1992 (Elwha Act), Public Law 102–495, we continue to work closely with the National Park Service and other agencies to remove the last remnants of the dams and restore the once famously abundant runs of native Elwha River salmon and steelhead. Unfortunately, removal of the dams caused a short-term threat to the salmon runs (due to sediment released from behind the former dams) and has adversely impacted our small Tribal land base and our Tribal budgets. We are strongly committed to the restoration of fisheries, fish habitat, streams and rivers, and the Port Angeles Harbor. We urgently need increased Self-Governance funds to support the operation of dam removal mitigation and restoration features and to revive our other Self-Governance activities from which we have been forced to transfer funds to support dam removal mitigation.
 - a. *\$702,000—Salmon Hatchery O&M Costs*—Fish Hatchery Operations Budget for the ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) of our state-of-the-art hatchery, which went online in 2011. This is a significant increase of \$601,929 annually, but one that is amply justified by the crucial role that our hatchery serves in dam removal and fishery restoration. Our hatchery is a genetic preserve for native Elwha salmonids, which have been on the verge of extirpation from the impacts of the dams and which have been further threatened by the enormous sediment load unleashed by dam removal. The National Marine Fisheries Service would not have approved dam removal under the Endangered Species Act without the hatchery's native salmonid programs. The Tribe should not have to bear the O&M cost of this important restoration facility that in fact benefits the entire region.
 - b. *\$270,000—Flood Control Levee O&M Costs*—The levee on our lands had to be expanded prior to dam removal in order to protect Tribal lands from the newly unleashed Elwha River and to conform to new Federal standards—clearly it is a mitigation feature of the dam removal project. In the 1992 Elwha Act, Congress intended that courts not be asked to address problems where legislative solutions would be far more effective in covering all the bases. Twenty-five years of inflation since 1992 more than justifies this increase in the current annual operations allocation of \$10,400.
 - c. *\$4 million for Land Acquisition*—Section 7(b) of the Elwha Act authorized \$4 million so that the Secretary could acquire trust lands for the Tribe in Reservation status in Clallam County, Washington, for economic development and housing. But those funds have never been appropriated. In 1934, an Interior Department report concluded that the then-proposed Reservation should be at least 4,000 acres, but in 1937 the initial Reservation was fewer than 400 acres and even now we have only 1,000 acres, several hundred of which (on the river's side of the levee) have to be maintained in undeveloped status as floodplain habitat. In addition, we need legislative direction to ensure that former hydro-project lands (now held by Interior for the interim) are transferred to the Tribe as contemplated in Section 3(c)(3) of the Elwha Act. The Elwha people have struggled for a century from the harm to their culture and economies caused by the Elwha River dams. We had to endure the destruction of not only the fisheries but the treaty fishers themselves and the attendant loss of our traditional and cultural livelihood; we have lost an opportunity—which will only return after another generation—to teach our children the ways of their ancestors and the Elwha life as designed by the Creator.
2. *\$267,000—Funding for Tribal Court Enhancement and to Implement TLOA and VAWA*. Consistent with the Interior Department's and Tribe's high priority on Tribal Court enhancement, Lower Elwha has made progress in adopting the enhanced sentencing provisions authorized by the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) and in particular the expanded Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction under the 2013 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). We now have the first in-house Chief Judge in the Tribe's history but our efforts remain limited due to the lack of adequate base funding for Court development. Requested funding will provide for: (a) mandatory criminal defense counsel (including

basic legal assistance for domestic violence victims); (b) legal counsel for parents in abuse/neglect cases; (c) detention services; (d) probation services that focus on solutions and restorative justice by sharing coordinated case management and re-entry referrals; and (e) basic court security. Full funding for TLOA-mandated provisions and increased base funding for our Tribal Court will enable Elwha to benefit from: BIA regional assessments using Trial Court Program Standards; specific technical assistance and training identified through these assessments; targeted training for specific Tribal court personnel (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, clerks); development of Tribal Court bench books; identification of funding sources for pilot programs; and captured data covering criminal pre-trial to post-conviction matters, including any collateral civil legal issues.

3. *\$191,000—Funding for ICW-related services from BIA’s Tiwahe (Family) Initiative.* Lower Elwha faces a community crisis with the increasing number of child abuse/neglect cases, which stem from inordinately high rates of drug/substance abuse by parents or caregivers. This crisis severely impacts services in all facets of Tribal government. A coordinated community response must be based on multi-disciplinary, culturally informed case planning and service delivery, coupled with a strong commitment to restorative justice ideals and (in criminal cases) solutions-based sentencing. A major obstacle to implementing this approach is our lack of infrastructure to assume jurisdiction over all local cases clearly arising under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); 65 percent of our current ICWA cases remain in the State court system (a deceptively low percentage due to reduced State court filings resulting from staff turnover). In addition, because we are dependent on an inadequate State system for licensing foster care providers, we are often unable to make proper placements to assist our families. For the past three fiscal years, the Tribe’s base Federal funding (BIA Self-Governance ICWA) has remained flat-lined at a mere \$45,000. We seek \$191,000 additional annual funding from the BIA’s Tiwahe (Family) Initiative, which would enable the Tribe to exercise jurisdiction in its own court system over all cases arising under the ICWA and to become a licensing agency for foster homes.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE ELWHA TRIBAL-SPECIFIC FUNDING REQUESTS

\$500,000 for Elwha Health Department Programs

The drug abuse and mental health crisis threatens to destroy the potential and the cultural connections of many Tribal members and families. In fiscal year 2016, the Tribe’s Mental Health and Chemical Dependency programs served 275 American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) patients, with the potential to reach approximately 1,500 within Clallam and Jefferson County. The Tribe currently subsidizes its chemical dependency program with third-party revenue and gaming revenue to fund prevention health initiatives and chemical dependency programs, yet these critical health epidemics remain severely underfunded. To remedy this, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services formula must be expanded to inpatient chemical dependency treatment programs at the current encounter rate of \$391/per day, with annual increases.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ELWHA TRIBAL-SPECIFIC FUNDING REQUESTS

\$536,000 for Elwha Tribal Environmental Programs

General Assistance Grant, \$125,000
 Clean Water Act § 106 Grant, \$81,000
 Puget Sound Partnership (“PSP”) Implementation Grant, \$180,000
 PSP Tribal Capacity Grant: \$150,000

Lower Elwha’s environmental programs have, over the past two decades, developed a strong pragmatic capability to protect human and basic environmental health for not only the Tribal community but also the greater Port Angeles and northern Olympic Peninsula communities. By focusing on collaboration with local governments and other stakeholders, we have maximized the efficiency of our small but skilled staff. This would not be possible without the basic EPA funding that we seek to continue. This funding supports: basic staff salaries, including for our highly experienced program director (General Assistance Grant); water quality monitoring in significant local rivers and lakes (Clean Water Act § 106 Grant); implementation of crucial in-the-field projects consistent with the PSP’s Action Agenda (PSP Implementation Grant); Tribal participation and influence in local, State, and Federal environmental planning and review activities (General Assistance and PSP Tribal Capacity Grants). PSP Implementation funding has enabled the Tribe to complete nu-

merous stream restoration projects that support the PSP Action Agenda. EPA funding is critical to our participation in the cleanup of toxic contamination of Port Angeles Harbor, which was nominated for Superfund listing but deferred to State cleanup authority; under this deferral arrangement, the Tribe has a unique and important role as the sole local representative working directly with the responsible State agency to ensure that the cleanup will protect the health of all residents of the greater Port Angeles area.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Elwha supports the Fiscal Year 2020 *Regional Budget Priorities* of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and also the Fiscal Year 2020 *National Budget Priorities* of the National Congress of American Indians and National Indian Health Board.

[This statement was submitted by Frances G. Charles, Chairwoman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE WATERNOW ALLIANCE IN SUPPORT FOR
THE EPA WATERSENSE PROGRAM

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

As members of WaterNow Alliance, we write to respectfully request your support to fund the Environmental Protection Administration's WaterSense Program at the fiscal year 2019 level of \$3.1 million or higher. WaterSense shares resources and encourages the adoption of water efficient practices and products that use less water across the Nation. The proposed fiscal year 2020 budget calls for the elimination of this small but important program. We urge you to reject this proposal and fund the WaterSense Program at least at its current level. While miniscule in terms of the overall Federal budget, WaterSense has an outsize beneficial impact on local communities like ours.

Since 2006, WaterSense partnerships have saved more than 3 trillion gallons of water. Additionally, WaterSense labeled products have saved over 400 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and approximately \$65 billion in water and energy bills for Americans in every State.

Using water efficiently makes sense for consumers, communities, and the environment as populations are faced with supply issues, aging infrastructure, extreme weather, and growth. It is critical to fund WaterSense Program at the very minimum at the fiscal year 2019 funding level of \$3.1 million or higher in the fiscal year 2020 budget to support utilities and consumers in the efforts to conserve this vital resource. Public and private partners, municipalities, and utilities across the Nation rely on WaterSense labeled products for conservation and efficiency programs.

For all of these reasons, we believe that the WaterSense Program is deserving of your support to fund at \$3.1 million or higher. Thank you for your consideration.

WaterNow Alliance is a nationwide network of over 400 local water leaders supporting sustainable water solutions to build community resilience. WaterNow is a WaterSense Partner.

Alan Buchanan Councilmember Camp Verde, AZ	Alexander R. Coate General Manager East Bay Municipal Utility District, CA	Amy Deming Community Outreach Specialist Madison Water Utility, WI
Amy Peterson Water Conservation Specialist City of Surprise, AZ	Andrew Kricun Executive Director/Chief Engineer Camden County MUA, NJ	Anna T. Hamilton County Commissioner Santa Fe County, NM
Bart A. Forsyth Assistant General Manager Jordan Valley Water Conservation District, UT	Bart Turner Councilmember City of Glendale, AZ	Bob Roth Mayor Pro Tem City of Aurora, CO
Brett Christensen Councilmember Payson City, UT	Bridget Donnell Newton Mayor City of Rockville, MD	Carmen Ramirez Mayor Pro Tem City of Oxnard, CA

Cindy Dyballa Councilmember City of Takoma Park, MD	Cynthia Pratt Deputy Mayor City of Lacey, WA	Dan Devine Mayor City of West Allis, WI
Dan Ferons General Manager Santa Margarita Water District, CA	David Cantu Aldersperson, Place 2 City of San Elizario, TX	Debra L. Kring Councilmember City of Mission, KS
Dick Weatherly Councilmen, Place 5 City of Lago Vista, TX	Emily Gorgol Councilmember Fort Collins, CO	Francisco R. Flores Chief Operator Water Plants City of San Juan, TX
George Baroody Councilmember, Place 2 City of Kerrville, TX	Gill Sorg Mayor Pro Tem City of Las Cruces, NM	Guy Phillips Councilmember Scottsdale, AZ
Harris Sondak Mayor Town of Alta, UT	Hattie Portis-Jones Councilmember WaterNow Leadership Council Fairburn, GA	Heidi K. Williams Mayor City of Thornton, CO
Henry Hash Director of Public Works City of Tukwila, WA	Jamie Whelan Councilmember City of Flagstaff, AZ	Jason Brown City Manager Beaver City, UT
John Gates Mayor City of Greeley, CO	John H. Guldner Town Administrator Town of Alta, UT	John H. Weed Director Alameda County Water District, CA
John Kmiec Water Director Marana Water, AZ	Kalen Jones Councilmember Moab City, UT	Karen Guzman-Newton Councilmember Moab City, UT
Kevin Shafer Executive Director Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, WI	Kirsten Keith Director Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency Menlo Park, CA	Lauren Kuby Vice Mayor City of Tempe, AZ
Mark Gallegos Mayor Village of Questa, NM	Marshall Brown General Manager Aurora Water, CO	Nancy Smith Councilmember City of Sunnyvale, CA
Nickole Nesby Mayor City of Duquesne, PA	Patrick J. Martin Water Use Efficiency Manager Miami Dade Water & Sewer Dept., FL	Paul Roberts Councilmember City of Everett, WA
Pete Laybourn Councilmember City of Cheyenne, WY	R. Michael Kasperzak, Jr. Former Mayor City of Mountain View, CA	Richard Gonzales Water Utility Manager City of Monterey Park, CA
Rick Maloy Water Conservation Manager Central Utah Water Conservancy District, UT	Robert J. Beste Public Works Director City of Torrance, CA	Rosemarie Russo Sustainability Director City of Moab, UT
Stacy Taylor External Affairs Manager Mesa Water District, CA	Steven Elie Director Inland Empire Utilities Agency, CA	TJ Cawley Mayor Town of Morrisville, NC

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) encourages the subcommittee's support for fiscal year 2020 Federal funding of \$2.0 million in financial assistance from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Soil, Water and Air Program for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Salinity Control Program) to prevent further degradation of Colorado River water quality and increased economic damages.

The salt concentration in the Colorado River causes over \$454 million in damages to water users each year. While this figure is significant, had it not been for the efforts of the Salinity Control Program, damages would be much higher. Salinity Control Program actions have reduced salinity concentrations of Colorado River water over 90 milligrams per liter (mg/L) from what they would have been without the actions. Modeling by Reclamation indicates that the economic damages will rise to approximately \$574 million by the year 2035 without continuation of the program.

Metropolitan is the regional water supplier for most of urban Southern California, providing supplemental water to retail agencies that serve approximately 19 million people. Water imported via the Colorado River Aqueduct has the highest level of salinity of all of Metropolitan's sources of supply, averaging around 630 mg/L since 1976. This salinity level causes economic damages to all sectors. For example, high salinity leads to:

- A reduction in the useful life of water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and an increased use of water softeners in the household sector;
- An increase in the cost of cooling operations, additional need for and cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;
- An increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;
- A decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector;
- Difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions;
- A reduction in the ability to re-claim and reuse water due to high salinities in the water delivered to water treatment and reclamation facilities;
- An increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins, and fewer opportunities for recycling due to groundwater quality deterioration;
- Increased cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water in the municipal sector; and,
- A reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use for leaching in the agricultural sector.

Concern over salinity levels in the Colorado River has existed for many years. To deal with the concern, the International Boundary and Water Commission signed Minute No. 242, Permanent and Definitive Solution to the International Problem of the Salinity of the Colorado River in 1973, and the President signed the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 (Act) into law. To further foster interstate cooperation and coordinate the Colorado River Basin States' efforts on salinity control, the seven Basin States formed the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum.

The Forum is charged with reviewing the Colorado River's water quality standards for salinity every 3 years. In so doing, it adopts a Plan of Implementation consistent with these standards. The Plan of Implementation, as adopted by the States and approved by EPA in 2017, calls for 63,500 tons of additional salinity control measures to be implemented by Reclamation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the BLM by 2020.

EPA has identified that more than 60 percent of the salt load of the Colorado River comes from natural sources. The majority of land within the Colorado River Basin is federally owned, much of which is administered by BLM. In implementing the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act in 1974, Congress recognized that most of the salts in the Colorado River originate from these federally owned lands. Title I of the Salinity Control Act deals with the U.S. commitment to the quality of waters being delivered to Mexico. Title II of the Act deals with improving the quality of the water delivered to users in the United States. This testimony deals specifically with Title II efforts.

In 1984, Congress amended the Salinity Control Act and directed that the Secretary of the Interior develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM. In 2000, Congress reiterated its directive to the Secretary and requested a report on the imple-

mentation of BLM's program (Public Law 106-459). In 2003, BLM employed a Salinity Coordinator to increase BLM efforts in the Colorado River Basin and to pursue salinity control studies and to implement specific salinity control practices. BLM is now working on creating a comprehensive Colorado River Basin salinity control program as directed by Congress. In January 2018 BLM issued A Framework for Improving the Effectiveness of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, 2018-2023. This document lays out how BLM intends to implement Colorado River Basin salinity control activities over the next 5 years.

Meaningful resources have been expended by BLM in the past few years to better understand salt mobilization on rangelands. With a significant portion of the salt load of the Colorado River coming from BLM administered lands, the BLM portion of the overall program is essential to the success of the effort. Inadequate BLM salinity control efforts will result in additional economic damages to water users downstream.

Implementation of salinity control practices through BLM is a cost effective method of controlling the salinity of the Colorado River and is an essential component to the overall Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. Continuation of adequate funding levels for salinity within the Soil, Water and Air Program will assist in preventing the water quality of the Colorado River from further degradation and significant increases in economic damages to municipal, industrial and irrigation users. A modest investment in source control pays huge dividends in improved drinking water quality to nearly 40 million Americans

Metropolitan urges the subcommittee to support funding for fiscal year 2020 of \$2.0 million from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Soil, Water and Air Program for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

[This statement was submitted by Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAMS

My name is Autumn Coleman and I serve as Manager of the Abandoned Mine Lands Program within the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. I am providing this statement on behalf of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML), which I currently serve as President. NAAML represents 32 States and Tribes, of which 28 implement federally approved abandoned mine land reclamation (AML) programs authorized under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). My address is P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana, 59620-0901. My email is acoleman@mt.deq.

As you know, the 2006 amendments to Title IV of SMCRA significantly changed how State and Tribal AML grants are funded. These grants are still based on receipts from a fee on coal production, but beginning in fiscal year 2008, the grants are funded primarily by mandatory appropriations. As a result and based on current OSMRE projections, the States and Tribes should receive \$188.4 million (before sequestration) in fiscal year 2020.

OSMRE's budget includes a discretionary funding request that would provide \$24.4 million. From this amount, OSMRE must meet the supplemental grant needs of States operating at "minimum program" status ("minimum program make-up funds"), as well as fund other activities and obligations including the agency's own AML work, administration of the AML Fund, and other activities in support of the AML program. While the amount provided should be sufficient to cover minimum program funding needs,¹ it should be noted that a decrease might strain the agency's ability to meet its other programmatic obligations.

SMCRA has been successful largely as a result of the cooperative Federalism model that it employs. While the States and Tribes understand and appreciate OSMRE's role in the AML program under SMCRA, we caution against using limited OSMRE funding for unproductive ends, for example OSMRE oversight that second-guesses State/Tribal assessments or requires unnecessary levels of supplemental information that does not advance program purposes. Rather than having OSMRE simply engaging in more oversight, the States and Tribes would benefit from a more collaborative relationship with OSMRE in completing the hard work associated with these program requirements. Minimum program States are particularly reliant on this type of support. For example, we believe that funding for technical assistance and applied science projects related to AML work is particularly important. We also

¹In fiscal year 2018 for example, 12 minimum program States received minimum program make-up funds totaling approximately \$18 million. It should be noted that other AML programs may become minimum programs in the future requiring additional funds for this category.

urge the Subcommittee to maintain necessary funding for OSMRE's training program and TIPS, including moneys for State/Tribal travel. These programs are central to the effective implementation of State and Tribal AML programs as they provide necessary training and continuing education for State/Tribal agency personnel, as well as critical technical assistance.

We also strongly support maintaining funding for the Watershed Cooperative Agreements in the amount of \$1.5 million. This funding serves an important role in facilitating State and local partnerships, thereby helping to leverage outside sources of funding and preserve precious reclamation grant funding.²

NAAMLPLP strongly recommends an increase in annual funding available to minimum program States. These States often have very significant AML inventories but funding under the current grant distribution formula is not enough to make efficient progress with their AML inventories.³ In the interest of enabling these AML programs to fulfill their potential, NAAMLPLP believes an increase in minimum program funding to an annual grant amount of at least \$5 million would be very beneficial.

Further to the goal of efficiency in the use of limited AML grant funding, sequestration of AML grants under the Budget Control Act of 2013 is an increasing concern to the State and Tribal AML programs. In fiscal year 2019, a sequestration reduction of 6.2 percent translated to \$19.2 million withheld for a total of approximately \$137.8 million withheld since 2013.⁴

NAAMLPLP recommends that Congress consider the exemption of the AML fund from sequestration a priority as it pursues legislative initiatives related to AML, as the benefits are patent, and every dollar of AML funding is needed. Because the AML fee is paid by the coal mining industry for the exclusive purpose of AML remediation, withholding that funding does not actually reduce the Federal budget deficit—but it does mean less money returned to local economies. NAAMLPLP also recommends that the subcommittee explore mechanisms to release the growing balance of withheld AML moneys related to sequestration as part of the appropriations process.⁵

NAAMLPLP also recommends attention be given to the way AML emergencies are handled under Title IV. Responding to sudden emergencies such as sinkholes and landslides is one of the AML programs' most important functions. Starting in 2010, OSMRE instituted a policy whereby State and Tribal AML programs must fund AML emergencies from their regular AML grants. This change has proven problematic, especially in that it diverts grant funding away from progress with AML inventories.⁶ NAAMLPLP recommends a return to the pre-2010 system wherein AML programs received reimbursement from the OSMRE discretionary share for emergency projects. This will encourage efficient progress with reclamation as well as ensure that the State and Tribal AML programs are well equipped to fulfill their important public safety role.

The Committee's recognition of the important role played by the AML program is evidenced by the ongoing provision of AML Economic Development Grant funds. The projects underway due to this pilot program exhibit potential economic as well as safety and environmental benefit, though the types of projects undertaken and benefits they hope to achieve have varied significantly between the States. The pilot has also served to inform potential future economic development-focused reclamation efforts. NAAMLPLP therefore opposes the reduction of funding for the pilot program in OSMRE's fiscal year 2020 proposed budget, and notes that these grants are not redundant to regular AML grant funding; pilot funding has a distinctly economically-focused purpose, whereas regular AML grant funding is focused on human and environmental health.

While the pilot program has been generally successful so far, and OSMRE's guidance documentation has been helpful, the States involved with the pilot program recommend that OSMRE's project vetting process could be more efficient. Several States are experiencing back-ups as they await project approvals from OSMRE for

²Funding for these agreements will also potentially be a key support for Good Samaritan programs and projects should Congress adopt legislative language supporting Good Samaritan clean up activities.

³At the current rate, some minimum program States have AML inventories that would literally take hundreds of years to reclaim completely.

⁴For minimum program States only receiving \$3 million per year the loss is especially problematic.

⁵According to OSMRE, the specific amounts that have been withheld from each State or Tribe are being tracked so that, once OSMRE has authority to distribute those funds, they could be repaid to the State and Tribal AML programs for which they were originally intended. According to OSMRE, there is no authority to distribute withheld funds unless provided by Congress.

⁶This is a particular problem for minimum program States, who can have entire years worth of progress with their limited annual grant be preempted by a single emergency project.

their pilot project proposals, which could cause significant delays if construction seasons are allowed to expire before projects can get underway. A degree of shift in the direction of efficiency may aid the overall success of the program at this juncture.

Beyond the coal sector, NAAMLPLP represents many States with significant hardrock AML problems within their borders.⁷ In the absence of a hardrock AML funding source comparable to Title IV funding for coal AML, State and Tribal hardrock AML programs struggle to maintain adequate funding and make consistent progress. There is no comprehensive account of the scale of the hardrock AML problem, but it is often cited as being in the tens of billions of dollars. In light of the disparity between available funding and the scale of the problem, NAAMLPLP expressed concern with significant reduction to hardrock AML funding contained in BLM's previous years' (fiscal year 2019) proposed budget. We are encouraged by the change contained in the fiscal year 2020 proposed budget in this respect, which would still combine the AML program with the hazardous materials program, but would maintain the total funding previously provided.

BLM hardrock AML funding is one of very few resources available for hardrock AML reclamation and water treatment. The majority of hardrock AML problems occur on Federal lands, meaning that the BLM AML program is the primary means of addressing public safety and environmental impacts. What's more, BLM cooperates closely with the State and Tribal AML programs to conduct this work, meaning that the cut to BLM funding will have a cascading negative effect on the State level programs. NAAMLPLP recommends BLM's hardrock AML program funding be maintained going forward.

Returning to discussion of coal AML—with the AML fee on which the Title IV program relies set to expire in 2021, NAAMLPLP has been engaged in serious discussions regarding the program's future. It is clear that the continuing need for these programs is strong. The AML pilot highlights the fact that AML work is especially important to the struggling communities in Appalachia who have been hit hardest by downturns in coal related employment—the mitigation of which has been a congressional and administration priority in recent years. AML sites endanger public health and safety, degrade the environment, and dampen economic prospects, which severely constrains well-being and growth in AML-impacted communities nationwide. AML programs have been contending with these issues for almost 40 years and have learned much about the true depth and scale of AML impacts over that time, as well as the health and economic benefits these projects bring to nearby communities.

Despite the progress that has been made, the time allotted to the AML programs to restore impacts from more than two hundred years of unregulated coal mining has simply not been adequate to complete that mission by the time the AML fee expires in 2021. Current OSMRE estimates project that over \$10 billion in reclamation costs will remain, and NAAMLPLP believes the true costs are significantly higher. There can be little question that if the AML program is to complete its mission, and if its fundamental contributions to living conditions and economic circumstances in coalfield communities are to continue, additional AML funding will be required beyond 2021. If the AML fee is not reauthorized, consideration must be given to how the more than \$10 billion in public liability represented by remaining coal AML costs will be contended with.

NAAMLPLP believes that discussion around reauthorization of the AML program will soon come to forefront. At that time, important questions will be asked about how much and what type of AML work is being accomplished and what types of AML problems remain. It should be noted that the AML accomplishments data furnished by OSMRE through its budget justifications document and the e-AMLIS database represent only a selective portion of the work that is being accomplished through AML grant funding. This is mainly due to the fact that e-AMLIS only records construction costs and does not include data on costs such as program administration, project management, and most importantly, project design. NAAMLPLP has been working with OSMRE to examine data related to the AML program and is in the late stages of developing information to more accurately tell the story of the AML program. As an example of what has so far been produced by that effort,

⁷ For example, Arizona alone estimates that they have in excess of 50,000 hazardous historic-mining hazards. More information about remaining AML reclamation costs and reclamation accomplishments can be found in NAAMLPLP's 2018 Update of the "Safeguarding, Reclaiming, Restoring" booklet.

the NAAML P 2017 Accomplishments report can be found in the footnote below.⁸ The State and Tribal AML programs have been in the lead role in conducting reclamation and tracking progress for the last 40 years. We hope to work closely with the Committee as it considers the future of the AML program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement regarding OSMRE's proposed budget for fiscal year 2020. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional information.

[This statement was submitted by Autumn Coleman, Manager of the Abandoned Mine Lands Program of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality on Behalf of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs re. the fiscal year 2020 Proposed Budget for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM).]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN AIR AGENCIES

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA), thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on the fiscal year 2020 budget for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), particularly grants to State and local air pollution control agencies under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), which are part of the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program. NACAA has three recommendations with respect to fiscal year 2020 appropriations. First, the association urges Congress to increase Federal grants to State and local air pollution control agencies by \$82 million above fiscal year 2019 levels (i.e., approximately \$158 million above the administration's fiscal year 2020 request), for a total of \$310 million. In light of the need for additional funding, NACAA opposes the administration's proposal to cut State and local air quality grants by 33 percent (from \$228 million in fiscal year 2019 to \$152 million in fiscal year 2020). Such cuts would be detrimental to the public's health and welfare. Second, NACAA recommends that State and local air quality agencies be provided the flexibility to use any additional grants to address the highest priority programs in their areas. Third, NACAA requests that Congress retain grants for monitoring fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) under the authority of Section 103 of the Clean Air Act, rather than shifting it to Section 105.

NACAA is the national, non-partisan, non-profit association of air pollution control agencies in 41 States, including 114 local air agencies, the District of Columbia and four territories. These agencies have the "primary responsibility" under the Clean Air Act for implementing our Nation's clean air programs. As such, they carry out an array of critical activities intended to improve and maintain air quality and protect public health.

NACAA first wishes to thank the subcommittee for the commitment to air quality that you have shown for many years. We recognize there are insufficient resources for you to support all the requests you receive from many competing and worthwhile programs. While over the years there have been some recommendations from the administration to cut funding for State and local air quality grants, you have steadfastly recognized the importance of these programs and have opted to not reduce our resources. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and to explain the importance of providing additional funding for these important programs going forward.

THERE IS A STRONG NEED FOR ADDITIONAL AIR QUALITY FUNDING

A good national air quality program is an essential investment in America. The sad fact is more Americans die or get sick from air pollution than from almost any other environmental or domestic problem facing our Nation. Tens of thousands of people die prematurely each year in this country as a result of exposure to such air pollutants as particulate matter, ozone and hundreds of toxic compounds. Additionally, millions suffer serious health problems, such as cancer and cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological and reproductive damage. According to EPA's estimates, in 2016 over 120 million people lived in counties with air quality that did not meet the health-based standards for at least one of the six "criteria pollutants."¹ Additionally, millions of Americans are exposed to risks from hazardous air pollutants.² State and local air pollution control agencies work tirelessly, and without sufficient

⁸NAAML P 2017 Accomplishments Report: <http://www.naamlp.net/memberinfo/NAAMLPAccomplishmentReport2017.pdf>.

¹<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-08/documents/fy-2018-2022-epa-strategic-plan-print.pdf> (page 8)

²<https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment/2014-nata-assessment-results#nationwide>

resources, to address these threats to public health and welfare by implementing the Clean Air Act.

The responsibilities facing these agencies have continued to grow while, unfortunately, Federal funding has lagged behind. Federal grants to State and local air quality agencies under Sections 103 and 105 of the CAA were \$228 million in fiscal year 2019, which is the same amount these agencies received 15 years ago, in fiscal year 2004. If the fiscal year 2004 figure is adjusted for inflation, level funding would translate to approximately \$310 million in today's dollars—an \$82-million difference. While the need for increases is far greater, NACAA's recommendation for Section 103 and 105 grants in fiscal year 2020 is merely for level funding, adjusted for inflation—or \$310 million.

State and local air quality agencies have made do with inadequate resources for many years. While the Clean Air Act envisioned the Federal Government supporting up to 60 percent of the cost of State and local air programs, the truth is it provides only 25 percent and in some cases much less, while State and local agencies provide the remaining 75 percent. While we understand Congress is not able to grant increases to fully meet the needs of our clean air programs, even the modest increases we are requesting will help.

On a day-to-day basis, as part of our "core" programs, our agencies carry out a host of essential resource-intensive activities, including monitoring, compiling emission inventories, planning, conducting sophisticated modeling, permitting and inspecting sources and adopting and enforcing regulations. It takes a tremendous effort to keep up with our existing responsibilities, especially when one considers that since fiscal year 2004, we have received the same dollar amount we do now while the purchasing power of our grants has diminished by more than 30 percent.

The ongoing and essential core programs we have identified are only a part of the picture. State and local air quality agencies are also called upon to address new and emerging issues. Our responsibilities continue to expand as new regulations, technologies, monitoring, controls and other elements of our programs become more sophisticated. Additionally, the public is demanding more information and assistance from State and local air quality agencies, including, for example, data related to wildfires and natural disasters that can be used to understand the level of risk and how they may protect themselves.

Air quality monitoring is just one area where the public expects and demands new and evolving State and local efforts. The State of technology is advancing at a rapid pace, including the ability of individuals and organizations to obtain and use localized monitoring and sensor equipment. Our agencies will need resources to manage the air quality data that the public is generating and to develop the sensible programs that the public will demand to address any air quality issues that may come to light.

Another activity for which additional Federal funding is critically needed is training of State and local air quality staff. We are facing an unprecedented rate of retirements and staff turnover, resulting in a loss of invaluable institutional knowledge. Having well-trained staff not only helps air agencies to operate more effectively, but it allows them to be more efficient and provide better customer service to the public and the regulated community. It is critically important that we have the resources to ensure that air agency staff are well trained and ready to take on the responsibilities they will face in an ever more complicated program.

In addition to the aforementioned examples, how else would State and local air quality agencies spend increased Federal grants? The list is very long, but a few activities for which additional funding is necessary include the following:

- reducing concentrations of fine particulate matter;
- improving small business compliance assistance;
- modernizing modeling and other estimation tools;
- improving emission inventories of air pollutants;
- increasing the frequency of inspections;
- developing new strategies to meet our health-based air quality standards;
- improving risk assessment capabilities; and
- helping the public better understand air pollution and how to protect their health.

All these activities are critical to our mission to reduce air pollution, maintain the many improvements we have already made and continue to protect public health and welfare, as we have been charged to do by the people of this country. Additionally, well-funded and well-functioning air agencies can help support the economy through timely, well-reasoned responses and actions.

FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF FUNDS IS IMPORTANT

Each area of the country faces its own unique air quality challenges. A one-size-fits-all strategy would not result in the best use of additional funding. For example, while an area in the West may wish to use additional resources on activities related to air pollution from wildfires, an area in the East may find a better use of increased funding for ozone-related programs. It is important, therefore, that State and local agencies be provided with the flexibility to use the increased funds on the highest priority programs in their areas.

NACAA RECOMMENDS THAT AUTHORITY FOR MONITORING GRANTS REMAIN UNDER SECTION 103

EPA has proposed in recent years to begin shifting funds for PM_{2.5} monitoring from Section 103 authority, where no State or local matching funds are needed, to Section 105, which would require additional matching funds. We recommend that the funds remain under Section 103 authority. For individual agencies that have concerns about the matching requirements, this will ensure that they do not have to refuse essential monitoring funds because they do not have the resources to provide the required match. In past years, Congress has been very responsive to our requests on this issue, for which we are very grateful, and we recommend that Congress again call for these grants to be provided under Section 103 authority.

CONCLUSION

State and local clean air agencies work to protect the public every day. Investing in them pays major dividends in avoided healthcare costs. NACAA urges Congress to (1) increase Federal grants to State and local air agencies by \$82 million above the fiscal year 2019 level of \$228 million, for a total of \$310 million (i.e., \$158 million above the administration's fiscal year 2020 request); (2) provide flexibility to State and local air agencies to use any additional grants to address the highest priority programs in their areas; and (3) retain grants for monitoring fine particulate matter under the authority of Section 103.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Miles Keogh, Executive Director of NACAA, at mkeogh@4cleanair.org or Mary Sullivan Douglas, Senior Staff Associate, at mdouglas@4cleanair.org.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) represents a growing network of 325 public wastewater and stormwater agencies nationwide who collectively serve more than 125 million Americans. NACWA thanks the subcommittee for its work to provide strong funding for clean water programs, and in particular for the significant funding increases achieved the past two fiscal years for core water infrastructure programs. Looking to build on that strengthened Federal funding partnership, below are our fiscal year 2020 EPA Appropriations priorities.

Program: Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Funding Request: \$3.4 B (2x fiscal year 2019 enacted)

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a critical tool which municipal clean water agencies leverage to help meet their Federal obligations under the Clean Water Act (CWA). In the United States, more than 90 percent of water infrastructure investment currently comes through local ratepayer and State investment. Importantly, the low-interest loans—and in limited cases, grants and loan forgiveness—that the CWSRF facilitates help clean water agencies finance infrastructure investments at favorable rates and better manage impacts to ratepayers.

The CWSRF has demonstrated success in facilitating infrastructure investment in communities large and small. NACWA greatly appreciates the subcommittee's work to increase funding from \$1.394B in fiscal year 2017 to \$1.694B in fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019. We urge continued support and consideration for further increased funding to reflect the ongoing need for infrastructure investment.

The CWSRF is even more crucial at a time when sewer and water rate increases are outpacing the rate of inflation. Preliminary analysis from NACWA's annual rate survey found that in 2018, the national average cost of wastewater services rose faster than the rate of inflation for the 17th year in a row, rising 3.8 percent. Key drivers of rising rates include Federal consent decrees requirements, associated capital construction and debt service, combined sewer overflow (CSO) and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control projects, sewer rehabilitation and replacement, and the

increasing cost of addressing regulatory requirements related to water quality challenges like nutrient impairment.

In many communities, the CWSRF has been instrumental to their success in complying with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, implementing secondary (biological) treatment of wastewater, reducing the frequency and size of sewer overflows during wet weather events and upgrading infrastructure. The CWSRF is also essential for many communities working to implement new regulatory requirements ranging from updated water quality standards for toxics to tightening nutrient limitations. The CWSRF is increasingly used to implement innovative stormwater and nutrient management projects and green infrastructure.

Program: Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants

Funding Request: \$225 M

The 115th Congress authorized \$225 million in the *America's Water Infrastructure Act* (Public Law 115-270) in fiscal year 2020 for grants to States and municipal entities for treatment works to intercept, transport, control, treat, or reuse municipal combined CSO, SSO, and/or stormwater. This new program was proposed for funding (\$61.45M) in the President's fiscal year 2020 budget proposal.

Controlling sewer overflows and ensuring proper stormwater management are essential to protecting public health and the environment. Compliance is very costly, however, placing financial strain on many communities and their ratepayers. It can be especially challenging for older communities dealing with aging infrastructure alongside population and economic shifts. For these reasons, NACWA was thrilled to see these grants authorized by Congress and believes it is critical that this authorization is fully funded. These Federal investment grants will help communities and their ratepayers more affordably meet their compliance obligations and mitigate against the negative impacts of CSO and SSO discharges into local waterbodies. The inclusion of stormwater management will help in developed areas with impervious surfaces where stormwater systems can be overwhelmed and may create flooding, infrastructure and environmental concerns, or where stormwater presents water reuse opportunities.

Program: Integrated Planning (EPA Environmental Programs & Management)

Funding Request: Provide \$2 M for implementation of Integrated Planning legislation and the Office of Municipal Ombudsman

Last Congress, the bipartisan *Water Infrastructure Improvement Act* (Public Law No: 115-436) was passed into law, codifying EPA's Integrated Planning (IP) Framework to provide local communities with critical flexibilities in meeting their CWA obligations and ensuring residents continue receiving safe, reliable, and affordable clean water services. The bill also included a provision which establishes a Municipal Ombudsman's office within EPA to provide municipalities with a dedicated point of contact within the Agency who can represent their interests to help them comply with their CWA and other environmental obligations, as well as ensure Agency policies are being implemented appropriately and consistently at the local level.

These are essential developments to help public clean water utilities and the communities they serve. The integrated planning approach helps communities prioritize their specific clean water obligations and better manage costs over time. EPA will need to work collaboratively with the States and municipalities to build awareness of this voluntary approach and provide appropriate guidance/facilitation to help States and clean water utilities make full use of integrated planning in line with Congress's intent. The establishment of a Municipal Ombudsman office is important at a time when regulatory compliance is becoming more onerous and complicated for communities to navigate. The ombudsman will provide a crucial role as it acts as a liaison between EPA and the municipal regulated community to help address these regulatory concerns.

Directing Federal resources toward implementation will help ensure EPA has the resources to fully implement the law and assist the States and interested municipalities. NACWA urges \$2 million in fiscal year 2020 for EPA to fund implementation of the *Water Infrastructure Improvement Act*.

Program: Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program

Funding Request: \$1 M

Over the next decade, the clean water sector is expected to incur a large wave of retirements among utility workers. Some municipalities could be facing a situation where up to 50 percent of their staff are eligible for retirement at the same time. This presents a challenge—most of these jobs require education and training—but also an opportunity since these positions provide a good career with competitive wages.

America's Water Infrastructure Act responded to this issue by establishing a new competitive grant program at EPA for water workforce development activities. Under the legislation, the program is authorized to develop and utilize innovative activities relating to water utility workforce development, expand public awareness about water utilities and connect individuals to careers. This new program was proposed for \$300,000 in the President's fiscal year 2020 budget proposal.

Program: Stormwater Infrastructure Funding Task Force
Funding Request: \$1 M

America's Water Infrastructure Act directed EPA to establish a task force to study and develop recommendations on stormwater infrastructure funding. The task force is to be comprised of Federal, State, local, and non-governmental entities and would evaluate public and private funding sources for constructing, rehabilitating, operating and maintaining stormwater infrastructure. NACWA requests \$1 million in fiscal year 2020 to get the task force up and running.

Program: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program
Funding Request: \$68 Million

The WIFIA program is a compliment to the SRFs, providing an additional financing tool to address water infrastructure investment by leveraging limited Federal resources. First authorized in 2014, it was designed primarily to fund large water infrastructure projects over \$20 million. NACWA has been engaged and pleased with the Agency's efforts to establish the program and provide financing assistance. NACWA is strongly supportive of the increased funding WIFIA received in fiscal year 2019, at a level of \$68 million, and encourages that amount for fiscal year 2020.

Program: Geographic Programs
Funding Request: Full funding across EPA's Geographic Programs

EPA's Geographic Programs, such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Chesapeake Bay Program, and Long Island Sound among others, support critical watershed-based investments. The goals and impacts of these programs cross multiple States, impact waters of national significance, and leverage significant State, local, and private dollars. In many cases, the geographic programs have helped forge partnerships between clean water agencies, upstream landowners, conservation groups, and other stakeholders to strategically advance water quality, reduce historic contamination, restore habitat, and advance the CWA goals of fishable and swimmable waters. NACWA is encouraged by the strong bipartisan congressional support these programs enjoy and urges Appropriators to maintain full funding for these programs in fiscal year 2020.

Program: Categorical Grants: Nonpoint Source § 319
Funding Request: \$170.1 M (Maintain fiscal year 2019 enacted level)

The CWA has been remarkably successful in reducing point source discharges. In many watersheds, nonpoint sources remain the largest outstanding driver of water quality impairments. Thus, continued progress on improving water quality under the CWA relies in large part on the ability to improve nonpoint source management. Nonpoint sources also contribute to acute public health risks such as harmful algal blooms and threats to drinking water.

Nonpoint source grants are provided to State, Tribes, and territories to aid implementation of EPA approved Nonpoint Source Management Programs under Sec. 319 of the CWA. Activities provided under these programs include technical and financial assistance to municipalities, outreach, and technology transfer and training. These programs also help monitor and assess the impacts of nonpoint management projects, an area where continued research and documentation is in demand by public entities and the private sector.

Program: Categorical Grants: Pollution Control § 106
Funding Request: \$230.1 M (Maintain fiscal year 2019 enacted level)

Under Sec. 106 of the CWA, EPA provides Federal assistance for States and Tribes in implementing their water pollution control programs in accordance with CWA. Strong State programs are essential to the cooperative Federalism approach of the Act. The clean water agencies represented by NACWA continually engage with their State programs offices on all aspects of CWA permitting, compliance and enforcement. Reductions in funding may impact the functioning of State programs to the detriment of the regulated community.

Program: National Priorities Water Research Program

Funding Request: \$20 M

Since 2012, Congress supported the National Priorities Water Research grant program by providing approximately \$4 million in EPA's Science and Technology Account. This funding has advanced the science of priority research topics through applied, extramural research. This successful program provides direct benefit to water sector utilities through increased knowledge, tools, and transformative approaches that can improve public health outcomes and lower costs. However, more funding is needed to meet growing challenges. NACWA urges increased funding for the National Priorities Water Research grant program to \$20 million for fiscal year 2020.

Program: Innovative Financing for State Loan Funds

Funding Request: \$5 M

America's Water Infrastructure Act included a pilot program provision allowing state financing authorities that administer the SRFs to apply for WIFIA loans directly through EPA, applying with a single application in which the State would bundle multiple projects on the State's approved intended use plan. Under this provision, such WIFIA loans to States would allow for 100 percent WIFIA financing (as compared to the existing program, in which WIFIA financing can total no more than 49 percent of total project cost), require only one credit rating letter (rather than two), and provide expedited application review for States. NACWA requests that the \$5 million authorized under the legislation be appropriated in fiscal year 2020.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact NACWA to discuss.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

I am Tim Palmer, President of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) which represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. Conservation districts are local units of government established under State law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work with millions of cooperating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on all private lands and many public lands in the United States. The following requests are for the EPA, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

The 319 Nonpoint Source Grants are critically important to stream bank stabilization, stormwater management, low-impact development, and other projects led by conservation districts to address water quality at the local level. Working lands are under increased pressure to produce food, feed, fuel, and fiber for the world's growing population. Because of this reality, it is more important than ever that we dedicate the resources necessary to ensure local communities continue to have access to and realize the benefits of clean water. For fiscal year 2020, NACD respectfully requests an appropriation of \$171 million for Environmental Protection Agency's 319 Nonpoint Source Grants.

State and Private Forestry is one of the few U.S. Forest Service (USFS) programs that provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners. For this reason, State and Private Forestry programs should be staffed and funded at levels that allow for strong public-private partnerships and ensure greater forest management and economic opportunity on private, non-industrial forest lands. NACD requests \$339 million in the fiscal year 2020 Interior appropriations bill for the U.S. Forest Service's State and Private Forestry programs, which includes a small increase to the incredibly important Forest Stewardship program to \$23 million.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 as amended directs U.S. Federal agencies to manage wild herds to “maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship” on herd management areas (HMAs). Bureau of Land Management (BLM) scientists have established appropriate management levels (AML) to achieve that balance. Unfortunately, current management efforts including limited gathers, fertility control via PZP, adoptions and sales have failed to control the ever-increasing horse and burro population, which continues to strain the natural resource capabilities of these lands beyond their carrying capacity, resulting in rangelands that in certain areas are already unrecoverable. As a programmatic request, NACD supports the removal of the Interior Appropriations language that prevents BLM from using all the tools to bring the horse and burro population to AML provided under the Act and opposes similar language being applied to the U.S. Forest Service.

The Federal Government currently owns an estimated 640 million acres, equivalent to the combined size of Alaska, Texas and California. NACD believes that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) should no longer be used for additional land acquisition, but rather provide maintenance to our roads, bridges, buildings and other infrastructure. According to the Department of the Interior, there is \$16 billion in deferred maintenance needs among its agencies with the National Park Service making up the largest share of that total. As a programmatic request, NACD supports a prohibition of funds from LWCF for new land acquisition and recommends LWCF be used to pay for the deferred maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. We look forward to working with you as we continue to serve the nation through locally-led natural resource conservation.

Sincerely,



Tim Palmer
NACD President

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ENERGY OFFICIALS

Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, I am David Terry, Executive Director of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), which represents the 56 State and Territory Energy Directors and their Offices. NASEO is submitting this testimony in support of funding for the ENERGY STAR program (within the Climate Protection Partnership Division of the Office of Air and Radiation) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). NASEO supports funding of at least \$50 million in fiscal year 2020, including specific report language directing that the funds be utilized only for the ENERGY STAR program. The ENERGY STAR program is successful, voluntary, and cost-effective. The program has a proven track record—it makes sense, it saves energy and money and Americans embrace it. ENERGY STAR helps consumers and businesses control expenditures over the long term. The program is strongly supported by product manufacturers, utilities and homebuilders, and ENERGY STAR leverages the States’ voluntary efficiency actions. Voluntary ENERGY STAR activities are occurring in public buildings, such as schools, in conjunction with State Energy Offices, in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The proposed elimination of this program is a grave mistake. We also strongly oppose the creation of a “fee-based” funding model, which could erode the program’s integrity. The States and the public utilize ENERGY STAR because it is seen as unbiased and delivers cost-savings benefits to businesses, consumers and State and local governments.

The ENERGY STAR program is focused on voluntary efforts that reduce the use of energy, promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy, and works with States, local governments, communities and business to achieve these goals in a cooperative, public-private manner. NASEO has worked very closely with EPA and approximately 40 States are ENERGY STAR Partners. With very limited funding, EPA’s ENERGY STAR program works closely with the State Energy Offices to give consumers and businesses the opportunity and technical assistance tools to make better

energy decisions and catalyzes product efficiency improvements by manufacturers without regulation or mandates. The program is voluntary.

ENERGY STAR focuses on energy efficient products as well as buildings (e.g., residential, commercial, and industrial). Over 300 million ENERGY STAR qualified products were sold in 2016 alone. The ENERGY STAR label is recognized across the United States. Approximately, 90 percent of households recognized the ENERGY STAR label when it was shown to them. It makes the work of the State Energy Offices much easier, by working with the public on easily recognized products, services, and targets. In order to obtain the ENERGY STAR label a product has to meet established guidelines. ENERGY STAR's voluntary partnership programs include ENERGY STAR Buildings, ENERGY STAR Homes, ENERGY STAR Small Business, and ENERGY STAR Labeled Products. The program operates by encouraging consumers and working closely with State and local governments to purchase these products and services. Marketplace barriers are also eradicated through education. State Energy Offices are working with EPA to promote ENERGY STAR products, ENERGY STAR for new construction, ENERGY STAR for public housing, etc. A successful example of how State Energy Offices are leveraging this key national program is the Nebraska Energy Office, which since 2005, has utilized ENERGY STAR as the standard for certifying home and office electronics that are eligible under the State's successful and long-running Dollar and Energy Savings Loan program. Another ENERGY STAR success is in the manufactured housing sector. States, such as South Carolina, offer modest rebates for ENERGY STAR manufactured homes in order to deliver both energy cost savings to homeowners and lower overall electric grid operation costs for all customers.

In 2016, millions of consumers and 16,000 voluntary partners, that included manufacturers, builders, businesses, communities and utilities, tapped the value of ENERGY STAR and achieved impressive financial and environmental results.

An estimated 91,000 energy efficiency home improvement projects were undertaken through the whole house retrofit program, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPwES), in 2016. More than 700 utilities, State, and local governments and non-profits utilize ENERGY STAR, as do 1,800 manufacturers.

The State Energy Offices are very encouraged with progress made at EPA and in our States to promote programs to make schools more energy efficient, in addition to an expanding ENERGY STAR Business Partners program. In Kentucky, the State has partnered with school districts and engineering firms to advance ENERGY STAR rated schools, resulting in more than 325 ENERGY STAR rated schools in the State, a 67 percent increase since 2012. Over the past few years, Kentucky has moved aggressively to promote and build zero-net energy schools. Other States that have over 150 ENERGY STAR rated schools include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Over 27 percent of Utah's K-12 schools are certified as ENERGY STAR.

EPA provides technical assistance to the State Energy Offices in such areas as ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (how to rate the performance of buildings), setting an energy target, and financing options for building improvements and building upgrade strategies. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager is used extensively by State Energy Offices to benchmark performance of State and municipal buildings, saving taxpayer dollars. Portfolio Manager is the industry-leading benchmarking tool which has been used voluntarily in approximately 50 percent of the commercial buildings in the U.S. Portfolio Manager is used to measure, track, assess, and report energy and water consumption.

Additionally, the industrial sector embraces ENERGY STAR and companies such as GM, Eastman Chemical, Nissan, Raytheon, Boeing and Toyota are recognized for sustained energy excellence by the program. At the close of 2014, the number of industrial sites committed to the ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry grew, while 306 sites met or exceeded their targets by achieving an average 20 percent reduction in industrial energy intensity.

The State Energy Offices are working cooperatively with our peers in the State environmental agencies and State public utilities commissions to ensure that programs, regulations, projects and policies are developed recognizing both energy and environmental concerns. We have worked closely with this program at EPA to address these issues. We encourage these continued efforts.

CONCLUSION

The ENERGY STAR program saves consumers billions of dollars every year. The payback is enormous. NASEO supports robust program funding of at least \$50 million in fiscal year 2020. Funding for the ENERGY STAR program is justified. It is

a solid public-private relationship that leverages resources, time and talent to produce tangible results by saving energy and money. NASEO endorses these activities and the State Energy Offices are working very closely with EPA to cooperatively implement a variety of critical national programs without mandates.

Contact: David Terry, NASEO Executive Director (dterry@naseo.org), 1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1275, Arlington, VA 22209, and Jeff Genzer, NASEO Counsel (jcg@dwgp.com).

[This statement was submitted by David Terry, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) appreciates the opportunity to submit written public testimony to the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies regarding our fiscal year 2020 appropriations recommendations. Our priorities focus primarily on appropriations for the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs.

State foresters deliver technical and financial assistance, along with forest health, water, and wildfire protection for more than two-thirds of the Nation's 751 million acres of forests. The Forest Service S&PF mission area provides vital support to deliver these services, which contribute to the socioeconomic and environmental health of rural and urban areas. The comprehensive process for delivering these services is articulated in each State's Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (Forest Action Plan), authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill and continued in the 2018 Farm Bill. S&PF programs provide a significant return on the Federal investment by leveraging the boots-on-the-ground and financial resources of State agencies to deliver assistance to forest landowners, Tribes, and communities. As Federal and State governments continue to face financial challenges, State foresters, in partnership with the S&PF mission area of the Forest Service, are best positioned to maximize effectiveness of available resources by focusing work on priority forest issues where resources are needed most.

Your support of the following programs is critical to helping States address the many and varied challenges outlined in Forest Action Plans.

WILDLAND FIRE AND FOREST FUELS

NASF applauds Congress' hard work and dedication to achieve a bipartisan wild-fire suppression funding solution to permanently end the raiding of the Forest Service's non-wildfire suppression programs, including the Agency's S&PF programs. We appreciate your continued support, as demonstrated in the fiscal year 2019 Appropriations bill, in this critical area through additional funding for the Agency's fire suppression and prevention accounts, as well as increased funding for hazardous fuels mitigation on both Federal lands and cross boundary areas. Fire knows no boundaries and State forestry agencies play a significant role in helping to reduce threats from fire as well as costs. The increased funding for both State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) in fiscal year 2019 is a wise investment and we encourage further financial support for these programs.

STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE AND VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE¹

More people living in fire-prone landscapes, high fuel loads, drought, and deteriorating forest health are among the factors that led most State foresters to identify wildland fire as a priority issue in their Forest Action Plans. We now grapple with increasingly expensive and complex wildland fires—fires that frequently threaten human life and property. In 2018, more than 58,083 wildland fires burned nearly 8.8 million acres.² State and local agencies respond to the majority of wildfires across the country; in 2018 State and local agencies were responsible for responding to 45,559 (78 percent) of the 58,083 reported wildfires across all jurisdictions.³

SFA and VFA are the fundamental Federal mechanism for assisting States and local fire departments in responding to wildland fires and in conducting management activities that mitigate fire risk on non-Federal lands. SFA also helps train

¹The President's Budget renamed these programs National Fire Capacity and Rural Fire Capacity respectively.

²National Interagency Fire Center, Historical Wildland Fire Summaries, pg. 7. Last accessed March 4, 2019 at https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/2018_statsumm/intro_summary18.pdf.

³*Id.*

and equip local first responders who are often first to arrive at a wildland fire incident and who play a crucial role in keeping fires and their costs as minimal as possible.

The fiscal year 2019 Forest Service Budget Justification highlights program success in Alaska during fiscal year 2017 when the State used \$1.6 million in SFA funds to increase capacity by paying for additional positions, including air attack operators for initial and extended operations, command staff for the statewide control centers, and technical experts for interagency fire plans. Funding supported the training of over 1,700 personnel, and was also used to defray the costs of senior level firefighters in the State of Alaska. These same personnel are also dispatched to assist in firefighting efforts across the Nation. By directing resources to actions that help reduce the number of large wildland fires—including prevention education, preparedness activities, and fuels mitigation—the SFA program directly addresses concerns over rising wildland fire suppression costs while also reducing wildland fire risk to communities.

In 2015, 85 percent of all local and State crews and engine dispatched outside of their geographic area were responding to Federal fires, primarily on initial attack. In 2016, 82 percent of the total number of fires were where State and local departments had primary jurisdiction. Attacking fires when they are small is the key to reducing fatalities, injuries, loss of homes, and cutting Federal fire-fighting costs. The need for increased funding for fire suppression on Federal lands has broad support. The need to increase fire suppression funding for State and private lands, where roughly 80 percent of wildfires occur, and where many Federal fires begin, is just as urgent. *NASF supports funding the State Fire Assistance program at \$87 million and Volunteer Fire Assistance at \$18 million in fiscal year 2020.*

FOREST PESTS AND INVASIVE PLANTS

Also among the greatest threats identified in the Forest Action Plans are native and non-native pests and diseases. These pests and diseases have the potential to displace native trees, shrubs and other vegetation types in forests; the Forest Service estimates that hundreds of native and non-native insects and diseases damage the Nation's forests each year. The growing number of damaging pests and diseases are often introduced and spread by way of wooden shipping materials, movement of firewood, and through various types of recreation. In 2015, more than 6 million forested acres suffered mortality from insects and diseases, 1.3 times greater than the previous year,⁴ and there is an estimated 81 million acres at risk of attack by insects and disease over the next 8 years.⁵ These losses threaten clean and abundant water availability, wildlife habitat, clean air, and other environmental services. Further, extensive areas of high insect or disease mortality can set the stage for large-scale, catastrophic wildfire.

The Cooperative Forest Health Management program supports activities related to prevention, monitoring, suppression, and eradication of insects, diseases, and plants through provision of technical and financial assistance to States and territories to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems on non-Federal forest lands. The Cooperative Forest Health Management program plays a critical part in protecting communities already facing outbreaks and in preventing exposure of more forests and trees to the devastating and costly effects of damaging pests and pathogens. *NASF supports funding the Forest Health-Cooperative Lands Program at \$51 million in fiscal year 2020.*

ASSISTING LANDOWNERS AND MAINTAINING WORKING FOREST LANDSCAPES—FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM⁶ AND FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Working forest landscapes are a vital part of the rural landscape, providing an estimated 900,000 jobs, clean water, wood products, and other essential services to millions of Americans. Private forests make up two-thirds of all the forestland in the United States and support an average of eight jobs per 1,000 acres.⁷ However, the Forest Service estimates that 57 million acres of private forests in the U.S. are at risk of conversion to urban development over the next two decades. Programs like the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) and the Forest Legacy Program are key tools

⁴Man, Gary. 2015. Major Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in the United States: 2015 Update. Last accessed on March, 5, 2019 at: http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/publications/ConditionsReport_2015.pdf.

⁵Tkacz, Bory, et al. 2014. NIDRM 2012 Report Files: Executive Summary. 2013–2027 National Insect and Disease Forest Risk Assessment. Last accessed on March, 5, 2019 at: http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/2012_RiskMap_Exec_summary.pdf.

⁶The President's Budget renamed this program Working Forest Lands.

⁷Forest2Market. *The Economic Impact of Privately-Owned Forests*. 2009.

identified in the Forest Action Plans for keeping working forests intact and for providing a full suite of benefits to society.

FSP is the most extensive family forest-owner assistance program in the country. Management assistance is delivered in cooperation with State forestry agencies through technical assistance services and the development and implementation of Forest Stewardship Plans. The program works to ensure that private landowners have the best information to help them manage their land for wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, timber production, and many other goals. In fiscal year 2018, nearly 24 million acres of private forest lands across the Nation were managed under Forest Stewardship Plans, and of this total nearly 13 million acres are within high priority landscape areas identified in State Forest Action Plans. Additionally, FSP supported direct outreach to roughly 475,000 landowners which includes 11,888 new Forest Stewardship Plans. The technical assistance provided through FSP is a gateway to other effective USDA, State, and private sector programs designed to help keep working forests intact. For instance, the FSP enables landowners to participate in USDA programs including the Forest Legacy Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program. *NASF supports funding the Forest Stewardship Program at \$29 million and the Forest Legacy Program at \$62 million in fiscal year 2020.*

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Urban forests are important to achieving energy savings, improved air quality, neighborhood stability, aesthetic value, reduced noise, and improved quality of life in municipalities and communities around the country. Urban trees and forests provide a wide array of social, economic, and environmental benefits to people living in urban areas; today, more than 83 percent of the Nation's population lives in urban areas.⁸ Yet, urban and community forests face serious threats, such as development and urbanization, invasive pests and diseases, and fire in the wildland urban interface (WUI).

Since its expansion under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1990 (CFAA), the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program has provided technical and financial assistance to promote stewardship of urban forests in communities of all sizes across the country. The program is delivered in close partnership with State foresters and leverages existing local efforts that have helped thousands of communities and towns manage, maintain, and improve their tree cover and green spaces. In fiscal year 2016, the U&CF program delivered technical, financial, educational, and research assistance to nearly 8,000 communities across all 50 States, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories and affiliated Pacific Island nations.⁹ *NASF supports funding the Urban and Community Forestry program at \$35 million in fiscal year 2020.*

IMPORTANCE OF FOREST INVENTORY DATA IN MONITORING FOREST ISSUES

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, managed by Forest Service, Forest and Rangeland Research, is the only comprehensive inventory system in the United States for assessing the health and sustainability of the Nation's forests across all ownerships. FIA provides essential data related to forest species composition, forest growth rates, and forest health data, and it delivers baseline inventory estimates used in Forest Action Plans. Further, this data is used by academics, researchers, industry, and others to understand forest trends and support investments in forest products facilities that provide jobs and products to society. The program provides unbiased information used in monitoring of wildlife habitat, wildfire risk, insect and disease threats, invasive species spread, and response to priorities identified in the Forest Action Plans.

As the key partner in FIA program delivery via State contribution of matching funds, State foresters look forward to continued work with the Forest Service to improve efficiency in delivery of the program to meet the needs of the diverse user groups for FIA data. *NASF supports funding the Forest Inventory and Analysis program at \$83 million in fiscal year 2020.*

LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION

The Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program is an important way that States, in collaboration with the Forest Service and other partners, address critical forest priorities across the landscape. LSR projects focus on the most critical priorities identified in each State's Forest Action Plan and on achieving national goals as laid

⁸ USDA Forest Service fiscal year 2016 Budget Justification at pg. 119.

⁹ USDA Forest Service fiscal year 2018 Budget Justification at pg. 64.

out in the State and Private Forestry national themes. As a result, LSR contributes to achieving results across the landscape and to making meaningful local, regional, and national impacts. *NASF supports funding the Landscape Scale Restoration program at \$20 million in fiscal year 2020.*

NASF appreciates the opportunity to share our fiscal year 2020 appropriations recommendations for the USDA Forest Service with the subcommittee.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICERS

TRIBAL CULTURAL PRESERVATION NEEDS

Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, I appreciate this opportunity to present the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO)'s recommendations for fiscal year 2020 appropriations. My name is Valerie Grussing and I am the new Executive Director. In this year of transition for the organization, we have some grand and exciting plans, some of which rely on this subcommittee's continued support for the budgetary needs of Tribal cultural preservation activities. Each of the recommended line item amounts are discussed in detail below.

1. *National Park Service*, Historic Preservation Fund, Tribal line item (\$20 million)
2. *National Park Service*, National NAGPRA Program:
 - a. Exclusively for NAGPRA Grants (\$2.331 million)
 - b. Program administration (\$1 million for Program Use)
3. *Bureau of Indian Affairs*—Create line items and support the following divisions:
 - a. 12 Regional Offices support for Cultural Resource compliance (\$3 million)
 - b. Central Office cultural resource efforts throughout the bureau (\$200,000)
 - c. NAGPRA compliance work (\$765,000)
 - d. To fight ARPA crimes on Indian reservations (\$200,000)
4. *Smithsonian Institution*: For repatriation activities, including Review Committee and repatriation office (\$1.25 million)

Background Information:

What are Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs)? THPOs are appointed by federally recognized Tribal governments that have entered into an agreement with the Department of the Interior to assume the Federal compliance role of the State HPO, per the National Historic Preservation Act. Tribal historic preservation plans are grounded in self-determination, traditional knowledge and cultural values, and may involve projects to improve Indian schools, roads, health clinics and housing. THPOs are the first responders when a sacred site is threatened, when an ancestral home is uncovered, and when Native ancestors are disturbed by development. THPOs are also often responsible for their Tribe's oral history programs and operating Tribal museums and cultural centers. They perform many functions and responsibilities in Indian country and, through their activities, represent an active expression and exercise of Tribal sovereignty.

What is the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers? NATHPO is a national non-profit membership association of Tribal government preservation officials committed to protecting culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance. NATHPO assists Tribal communities in protecting their historic properties, whether they are naturally occurring in the landscape or are manmade structures.

1. HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND (HPF), ADMINISTERED BY THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE—TRIBAL LINE ITEM
(\$20 MILLION)

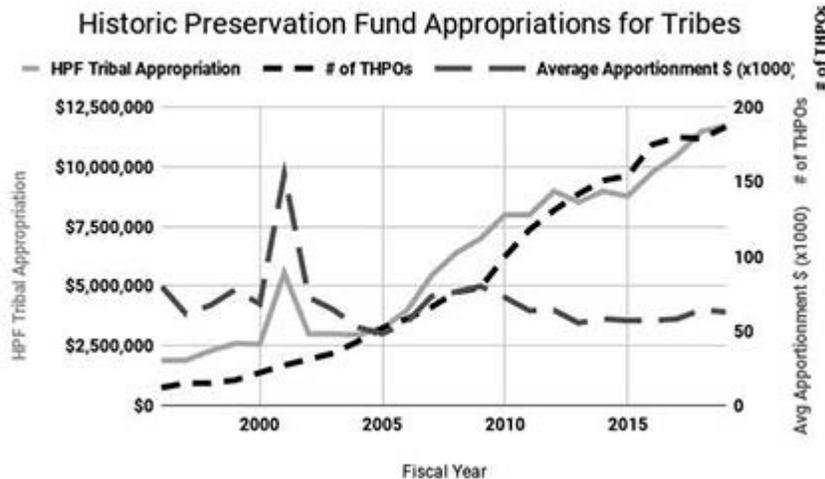
As of May 1, 2019, there are 185 National Park Service (NPS)-recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs). Each THPO represents an affirmative step by an Indian Tribe to assume the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Officers for their respective Tribal lands, as authorized by Congress in the 1992 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act. Collectively, these Tribes exercise responsibilities over a land base exceeding 50 million acres in 30 States. The HPF is the sole source of Federal funding for THPOs and the main source of funding to implement the Nation's historic preservation programs. HPF revenue is generated from oil and gas development on the outer Continental Shelf. We recommend \$20 million to carry out the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.

This would provide the nearly 200 federally recognized THPOs an average of \$100,000 to run their programs. Funding THPOs and staff creates jobs, generates economic development, and spurs community revitalization. It also facilitates environmental and historic review processes, including for infrastructure permitting.

What is at stake? As the number of Indian Tribes with THPO programs increases, the amount of HPF funding appropriated and apportioned to THPOs must keep pace. Native American cultural properties on millions of acres of Tribal lands are at risk. For the past several years, each THPO program has been asked to conduct important Federal compliance work with fewer financial resources. In the first year of congressional funding support for THPOs (fiscal year 1996), the original 12 THPOs each received an average of \$83,000 per THPO, while in fiscal year 2018, 179 Tribes received an average of \$64,000. There are expected to be almost 200 THPOs in fiscal year 2020. Reconnecting Native peoples to their cultural heritage, traditions, and places has the power to help heal deep generational wounds. To continue historic preservation and cultural revitalization in Indian country, it is essential that THPO programs receive increased funding to meet the increasing need. The chart below demonstrates the program growth and funding need.

Additional HPF programs administered by the National Park Service: NATHPO appreciates the strong HPF funding levels the Committee has provided in recent years. We support the request of the National Trust for Historic Preservation that Congress provide a total fiscal year 2020 HPF appropriation of \$148.5 million. Within that funding we recommend:

- \$60 million for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs);
- \$20 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs);
- \$5 million for a competitive grant program for SHPOs and THPOs to conduct mapping and digitization of historic resources—which would enable their identification at the very earliest stages of project planning, leading to both protection of historic sites and increased efficiency of infrastructure projects (minimizing controversy, legal challenges, and delays);
- \$30 million for grants to preserve the sites and stories of underrepresented communities;
- \$10 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities;
- \$15 million for Save America’s Treasures grants;
- \$7.5 million for preservation grants to revitalize significant historic properties;
- \$1 million for competitive grants for the survey and nomination of properties associated with communities currently underrepresented on the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks.



HPF Tribal appropriation has steadily increased, as has the number of THPOs. Therefore the average apportionment per THPO has remained the same.

2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NATIONAL NAGPRA PROGRAM

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) provides for the disposition of Native American cultural items¹ removed from Federal or Tribal lands, or in the possession or control of museums or Federal agencies, to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, or Native Hawaiian organizations based on descent or cultural or geographic affiliation. NAGPRA prohibits trafficking of Native American cultural items and created a grants program exclusively for Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and public museums.

NAGPRA Grants Program:

- a. *\$2.331 million* to be used exclusively for NAGPRA Grants to Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and museums. We recommend that the Committee restore the amount that the NAGPRA grants program received each year for most of its history prior to when the NPS began to divert a greater amount of funds for administrative use within the cultural resource division. NAGPRA grants have been “level-funded” at \$1.65 million. NATHPO requests that the Congress restore the grants to the \$2.331 million funding level.

Administration of National NAGPRA Program:

- b. *\$1 million*, additionally, for NAGPRA program administration, including the publication of Federal Register notices, grant administration, civil penalty investigations, and Review Committee costs.

3. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS—CREATE LINE ITEMS AND SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONS

The BIA has federally mandated responsibilities to work with Indian Tribes and comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and NAGPRA. Currently the BIA does not have any budget line items that are devoted to complying with these Federal laws, nor does the BIA have resources dedicated to compliance with the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and executive orders and directives in the cultural resource field. Funds are not only needed for the BIA to comply with their internal development efforts, such as roads and forestry, but also to conduct project reviews of outside development projects, such as oil and gas development that are estimated to number over 7,000 per year. ARPA crime on Indian reservations continues to be a major problem, as looters and traffickers continue to steal valuable cultural resources from Tribal and Federal lands. The BIA does not have any special agents or law enforcement forces to combat this uniquely destructive crime in Indian country and we urge the creation of a dedicated line item within the BIA.

NATHPO recommends the BIA create line items and support the following divisions:

- a. To support Cultural Resource compliance at the 12 Regional BIA Offices (\$250,000 x 12 regional offices = \$3 million)
- b. Central Office cultural resource efforts throughout the bureau (\$200,000)
- c. NAGPRA compliance work (\$765,000)
- d. To fight ARPA crimes on Indian reservations (\$200,000)

4. SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY REPATRIATION PROGRAMS

NATHPO requests that the Smithsonian Institution receive \$1.25 million for its repatriation activities, including operation costs of the Review Committee and repatriation office.

Thank you for considering our testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[This statement was submitted by Valerie J. Grussing, Executive Director.]

¹Cultural items include human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and Members of the subcommittee, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) presents this testimony to urge approval of fiscal year 2020 funding above the fiscal year 2019 enacted levels for the Indian Loan Guarantee Program and the budget for the Economic Development Division of the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (OIEED) within the Department of the Interior (DOI).

1. Indian Loan Guarantee Program:

The essential Indian Loan Guarantee Program has long been supported by NCAIED and other leading national organizations representing Indian Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, and enterprises owned by them or their community members. Testimony and letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies called for doubling the funds for the Indian Loan Guarantee Program in fiscal year 2019, so we were gratified when your House counterparts recommended, and the full House approved, \$19,279,000 for this program “to remain available through September 30, 2020” with \$1,702,000 for administrative expenses and a most welcome volume cap of \$329,260,000 in private loans that could be subject to guarantee. Your subcommittee recommended slightly more than level funding, and the conference agreement approved in the fiscal year 2019 minibus was \$10,779,000 (up \$3 million, but not the \$10 million plus up the House approved).

On March 27, 2019, the NCAIED’s annual Reservation Economic Summit (RES2019) hosted the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs’ Listen Session on Federal Loan Guarantee Programs. When Committee staff asked whether the Indian Loan Guarantee Program should be eliminated in favor of other loan guarantee programs (as the fiscal year 2020 Budget Request proposes), not one person raised a hand of the 100+ session participants. Every lender and Indian borrower at the Listening Session agreed that this valuable program is the only one designed to facilitate access to private loans for Tribal and Tribal member projects on trust lands or other rural native communities generally ignored by most private lenders. So, once again, NCAIED and other leading national Tribal organizations respectfully request that the subcommittee approve an increase—preferably up to \$25 million or at least double the fiscal year 2019 enacted level—for the Indian Loan Guarantee Program with bill language to enable the funds “to remain available through September 30, 2021.”

Under this Program, administered by OIEED’s Division of Capital Investment (DCI), private lenders certified by DCI make conventional loans to eligible Tribal and individual Native borrowers for businesses and economic development projects. To qualify for the guarantee, the loan must have an economic impact on a native community or Bureau of Indian Affairs service area. DCI-certified lenders (including numerous Tribal-owned banks) understand that Tribal law may apply, including Tribal court jurisdiction, and are familiar with collateral restrictions when lending to borrowers on Tribal lands. DCI allows its certified lenders to use their own forms and underwriting standards, including longer loan terms to enable borrowers to meet debt repayment schedules. Lenders and borrowers prefer DCI’s more flexible, simpler process that facilitates financing of profit or nonprofit businesses, large or small loans, business startups or expansions, construction, refinancing, and lines of credit. On average, DCI issues about 30 loan guarantees and loan insurance certificates annually, but could issue more with (1) increased credit subsidy, (2) some insulation from funding interruptions (due to repeated Continuing Resolutions and partial government shutdown), and (3) leeway to hire one or more permanent staff.

While the President’s budget seems to favor the larger Small Business Administration (SBA) loan guarantee program, the SBA program is far less suited to Indian Country lending. The SBA imposes more rigid underwriting criteria and collateral requirements, its guarantee amount is smaller, loan closings take longer, most SBA staff and SBA lenders are unfamiliar with Indian borrowers, Tribes and non-profits are not eligible, Tribal enterprise borrowers must waive sovereign immunity, Tribal member borrowers on trust lands also may have to obtain a sovereign immunity waiver, and disputes must be resolved in Federal court.

Indian Country needs the Indian Loan Guarantee Program, and support for it is fully justified based on its successful track record, a low loss rate, and an impressive return of about \$17 in private financing for every \$1 of Federal funds invested. For some examples, see <https://bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/IEED/DCI/SuccessStories/index.htm> and below:

Alaska: At least 6 successful projects in Alaska have been privately financed with DCI's loan guarantees. Several projects spurred economic development in Hoonah, AK, with three guaranteed loans totalling over \$38 million. The first two loans, from Northrim Bank and Alaska Pacific Bank, helped to purchase, renovate and transform a old salmon cannery into a tourism attraction with restaurant, gift and retail facilities (employing 63 during construction, and 35 permanently), and later develop deep water cruise ship pier facilities in 2015. A third guaranteed loan financed an Alaska Native-owned touring company that offers scenic tours to cruise ship visitors. In 2009, Wells Fargo provided \$800,000 in tax exempt financing, guaranteed by DCI, to enable Cook Inlet Tribal Council to construct a social service center and bus barn. The Seldovia Native Association financed a hotel's construction with an \$8.3 million loan from Wells Fargo with a DCI guarantee. DCI also has guaranteed several loans to help Alaska Native entrepreneurs launch their businesses, including ArXotical (triplet sisters' indigenous beauty products company), and Bayview General Merchandise (a general store built and run by a Toksook Bay shareholder).

New Mexico: Since 1987, the DCI program has guaranteed several loans totaling over \$15 million to enable the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque to expand its cultural center and retail development (e.g., Starbucks, restaurant, a self-storage business), increasing annual revenue from under \$1 million to over \$30 million (employing almost 200 people, 44 percent Native American). In another successful project, the Picuris Pueblo constructed the now popular Hotel Santa Fe with financing, DCI-guaranteed, of \$11.1 million from Palm Desert National Bank. In addition to its distinction as the only Tribal-owned hotel in Santa Fe, the successful enterprise is a large employer and features art, architecture, music and language of the Pueblo people.

Navajo Nation Tribal Utility Authority: Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) secured a \$23.5 million loan with a DCI guarantee to acquire a greater ownership interest in NTUA Wireless, LLC, the first Tribal wireless/Internet enterprise, and to meet underserved and unserved communications needs within Navajo Nation. Employing more than 80 fulltime (45 within NTUA Wireless and 35 within NTUA), NTUA services now include communications, electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater, and photovoltaic power (solar).

Nevada: To finance the design and construction of the Northern Nevada Transitional Housing Center for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) and State of Nevada, the Tribe worked with the State, U.S. Bank, and DCI on an \$8 million loan. With the DCI guarantee, U.S. Bank agreed to extend the loan for 20 years so that the Tribe could afford the debt service payments. The project expanded essential services to the Tribal community, and has contributed to the economic growth of the greater Reno-Sparks area.

Other Southwest Projects: About \$32 million in loan guarantees have supported financing for convenience store projects in various Tribal communities in the West and Southwest, including in California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. Creating jobs and significant revenues for Tribes and individual native entrepreneurs, some of the stores operate in remote areas and provide their communities essential goods and services (e.g., gasoline, basic food items, money order and wire transfer services). Several of the stores complement other Tribal attractions, such as hotels, casinos, and artisan communities.

Wisconsin: Over 2018–2019, the Oneida Tribe secured \$37 million in combined financing from four banks (three Tribal-owned), with a DCI loan guarantee, to refurbish and remodel two hotels and refinance old higher interest rate debt. The Tribal banks are Mille Lacs-owned Woodlands Bank, Oneida-owned Bay Bank, and Native American Bank (owned by over 30 Tribes and Alaska Native corporations).

Washington: The program guaranteed a \$130,000 loan to enable a Quinault Indian Nation Tribal member to purchase a fishing vessel, the Pacific Rooster, and employ other Tribal members in exercising their Tribal treaty fishing rights, catching fish and delivering their catch to Quinault Pride Seafood.

In 2006, Congress increased this program's authorization for the aggregate of loans subject to program guarantees or insurance to grow from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion. So far, that higher lending level has not been attained because far too little is appropriated annually for the program's credit subsidy, keeping the volume cap on loans subject to guarantee far too low—despite ever-increasing demands for financing in Indian Country.

The National Center, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Native American Finance Officers Association and others organizations in Indian Country have urged Congress repeatedly to double the funding for the Indian Loan Guarantee Program. NCAI calls for \$25 million for the program in its fiscal year 2020 Indian Country Budget Request (see p. 91). More funding would enable DCI-certified lenders to finance more projects (and attract more banks to participate in the

program) to support financing for business expansions, Tribal development projects, lines of credit for working capital and payrolls for more employees, and even infrastructure and small energy development projects. Given the substantial return on the modest Federal investment, Congress should increase the program's funding beyond the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and allow it some more staff and a higher volume cap for guaranteed loans.

2. Economic Development Division within OIEED:

For fiscal year 2019 funding for DOI's Community and Economic Development account, the House approved \$51.5 million, but the Senate approved only \$46.5 million. Fortunately, the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$47.5 million included, according to the conference report, an increase for OIEED of \$1 million: "to provide assistance to Tribes to enhance economic development and improve access to private financing of development projects . . . assist with feasibility studies and provide technical assistance to Tribes to establish commercial codes, courts and other business structures . . . build Tribal capacity to lease Tribal lands and manage economic and energy resource development . . . [and] foster incubators of Tribal-owned and other Native American-owned businesses." H. Rept. 116-9, p. 729. For fiscal year 2020, NCAIED and other leading national Tribal organizations urge Congress to add to last year's increase to provide at least \$3 million with report language directing that the increase "be dedicated to OIEED's Economic Development programs to support: more feasibility studies of development projects; greater access to private financing for such projects; technical assistance on Tribal legal and business structures to enhance economic development, and building capacity for leasing Tribal lands and managing economic and energy resource development; and incubators of Tribal-owned and other Native American-owned businesses" (as proposed in S. 294). Support for the OIEED increase is reflected in NCAI's fiscal year 2020 Indian Country Budget Request on page 92.

In sum, the National Center urges the subcommittee to approve upwards of \$25 million for the Indian Loan Guarantee Program and increase OIEED's budget by \$5 million, with \$3 million for its Economic Development to leverage substantial private sector financing and other initiatives to advance economic development in Indian Country.

Chris James, President & CEO
National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICERS

Fiscal Year 2020 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Apportionment Total Request:

- \$60 million for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs)
- \$20 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs)
- \$30 million for competitive grant programs related to the Civil Rights Movement
- \$10 million Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- \$7.5 million for grants to preserve historic resources in rural communities
- \$7.5 million for Save America's Treasures grant program.

Funded through withdrawals from the Historic Preservation Fund (16 USC 470h) U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Unique and Successful Federal-State Partnership

Recognizing the importance of our national heritage, in 1966 Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA 16 USC 470), which established historic preservation as a priority of the Federal Government. Recognizing that State officials have local expertise, the Act's authors directed Federal entities charged with its implementation—the Department of the Interior and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation—to partner with the States. Duties delegated to the SHPOs include: (1) locating and recording historic resources; (2) nominating significant historic resources to the National Register of Historic Places; (3) cultivating historic preservation programs at the local government level; (4) providing funds for preservation activities; (5) commenting on Federal rehabilitation tax credit projects; (6) review of all Federal projects for their impact on historic properties; and (7) providing technical assistance to Federal agencies, State and local governments and the private sector.

To assist the States in accomplishing this federally-delegated work, in 1976, Congress established the HPF. The HPF is funded from outer-continental shelf lease revenues—not tax dollars, so that the depletion of one non-renewal resource can be used to help preserve another non-renewable resource—our heritage. And the States also contribute toward this effort, matching at least 40 percent of the HPF funding they receive.

Finding and Saving America's Heritage

The first step in preserving and protecting America's heritage is identifying it—which requires survey, documentation and stewardship and sharing of digital historic site data. These sites represent the many people, places, and events that have shaped our national identity. Adequate funding is essential for SHPOs to conduct historic resource identification, documentation and digitization activities. Having accurate, up-to-date, digitally accessible information on our Nation's historic resources would dramatically increase the efficiency and effectiveness of all local, State, and Federal projects. From deciding on the design of local in-fill development, to State transportation planning projects, to Federal large-scale energy projects and disaster recovery efforts—every single project, and the American people would benefit from enhanced and accessible historic resource databases.

Once identified and documented, America's historic resources are primarily recognized at the local, State, and national levels by listing on National and State Historic Registers. State Historic Preservation Officers, through the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act assist, support and encourage communities with their efforts. National Register recognition by the Secretary of the Interior confirms citizens' belief in the significance of their communities.

The National Historic Preservation program is primarily one of assistance, not acquisition. The Federal Government does not own, manage, or maintain responsibility for the vast majority of the historic assets in the National Historic Preservation program. Instead, the program, through the SHPOs, provides individuals, communities, and local, State, and Federal Governments with the tools they need to identify, preserve, and utilize the historic assets of importance to them.

In addition to the SHPO funding, the NCSHPO supports robust funding for the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO). THPOs assume the Federal compliance role of the SHPO on their respective Tribal lands. The number of THPOs continues to increase annually. Funding increases are necessary to prevent a decrease in the average THPO grant.

NCSHPO also supports \$7.5 million for the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program to preserve historic resources in rural communities, \$7.5 million for the Save America's Treasure's grant program, \$30 million for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories related to the Civil Rights movement, and \$10 million for a similar program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Jobs, Economic Development & Community Revitalization

Historic preservation has stimulated economic growth, promoted community education and pride, and rescued and rehabilitated significant historic resources in communities throughout the country. In many cases, historic preservation combats the effects of blight and vacancy by using the historic built environment as a catalyst for community change. These changes result in historic downtown districts and neighborhoods that are dynamic destinations for visitors and residents alike.

The Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HTC) program, administered by the State Historic Preservation Offices in cooperation with the National Park Service, is an important driver for economic development. Since inception, the HTC has rehabilitated more than 43,000 buildings, created more than 2.5 million jobs and leveraged \$144 billion in private investment nationwide. On average, the HTC leverages \$5 dollars in private investment for every \$1 dollar in Federal funding creating highly effective public-private partnerships. In many States, including my own State of Texas, the HTC has been expanded through adoption of State tax credit programs that complement the HTC. By way of example, in the four-year period between 2012 and 2015, 21 Federal tax credit projects were completed in Texas. In the subsequent three-year period (since our State tax credit went into effect in 2015), 53 Federal tax credit projects have been completed, more than doubling our previous activity, and including private investment that exceeds \$1 billion per year. This would not be possible without a robust Federal program.

Historic preservation also stimulates economic development through heritage tourism. Cultural and heritage travelers spend an average of \$994 per trip and con-

tribute more than \$192 billion annually to the U.S. economy.¹ SHPOs are essential, ground level partners in identifying and interpreting the historic places that attract these visitors. A modest increase in SHPO funding would allow SHPOs to expand their public outreach and assistance efforts, enabling communities to take greater advantage of heritage tourism opportunities which lead to job creation, new business development and enhanced community pride.

State Historic Preservation Offices' Accomplishments

Although it has been authorized at \$150 million, appropriation levels have never approached that amount. Even with chronic underfunding, through the end of 2018, the HPF has facilitated more than 1.8 million listings in the National Register, the survey of millions of acres for cultural resources, and administers the Historic Tax Credit, which has generated more than \$32.4 billion in Federal tax revenue from historic rehabilitation projects.

Conclusion

On behalf of all 59 SHPOs, I'd like to thank you, Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Historic preservation recognizes that what was common and ordinary in the past is often rare and precious today, and what is common and ordinary today may be extraordinary—50, 100 or 500 years from now. I would like to thank the committee for their commitment to historic preservation. The Federal Government plays an invaluable role in preserving our Nation's history and our collective sense of place. Through our partnership, SHPOs remain committed to working together to identify, protect, and maintain our Nation's heritage.

[This statement was submitted by Mark S. Wolfe, President of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding fiscal year 2020 Interior-Environment appropriations. Founded in 1944, NCAI is the oldest and largest representative organization serving the broad interests of Tribal governments and communities. For 75 years NCAI has advocated for Tribal governments and communities, NCAI has fought to preserve the treaty and sovereign rights of Tribal nations, advance the government-to-government relationship, and remove historic structural impediments to Tribal self-determination.

NCAI's following requests are rooted in the treaties and agreements that our ancestors made with the U.S. Government. When Tribal nations ceded millions of acres of land to the U.S., the Federal Government promised to safeguard our right to govern ourselves, to enable Tribal governments to deliver essential services, and provide them adequate resources to do so effectively. However, a recent assessment from the U.S. Civil Rights Commission has found that "Federal funding for Native American programs across the government remains grossly inadequate to meet the most basic needs the Federal Government is obligated to provide."¹ Tribal leaders and citizens have known this for decades, and we urge Congress to fully fund the U.S. Government's treaty and statutory obligations.

The update also found that in the past 15 years, efforts undertaken by the Federal Government have resulted in minor improvements and in some ways have lost ground. While Congress has dealt with a spending environment hampered by an austerity fiscal policy, including sequestration and tight limits on discretionary accounts, the Federal trust and treaty obligations were no less imperative. The fact that these solemn agreements that are funded in the Federal budget have been subject to political impasses, including a recent 35-day government shutdown, highlights the need for solutions to protect vital Tribal governmental services from interruptions.

¹U.S. Cultural and Heritage Tourism Study (October 2009) conducted by Mandala Research, LLC for U.S. Cultural & Heritage Tourism Marketing Council, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Gozaic/Heritage Travel Inc., a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

¹U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. (2018). Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans

The Indian Health Service (IHS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) provide core governmental services for Tribal nations, including hospitals, schools, law enforcement, child welfare programs, social services, and more. For many Tribal nations, most Tribal governmental services are funded by Federal sources as part of the treaty and trust responsibility. This is particularly important because Tribal nations lack the tax base and parity in tax authority under Federal law to raise governmental revenue to deliver services.

Federal funding remains critical to ensure essential government services are delivered to Tribal citizens. In addition to the appropriations requests below, NCAI urges Congress to fund IHS and BIA through advance appropriations to protect Tribal governments and citizens from future shutdowns as well as cash flow problems that regularly occur at the start of the fiscal year.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Along with the IHS, the BIA is one of the primary agencies responsible for providing services throughout Indian Country, either directly or through compacts or contracts with Tribal governments. As part of the fiscal year 2020 budget formulation process, Tribes from each BIA region completed a survey to outline which ten budget lines they would prefer to provide increased funding to and why. The formulation process provides a window into which program areas Tribes would prefer to see increases designated. The results of this process show that BIA Social Services, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Tribal Courts, Aid to Tribal Government, Scholarships and Adult Education, Criminal Investigations/Policing, Road Maintenance, Housing, Johnson O'Malley, Detentions and Corrections, and Welfare Assistance made up the top 11.

For *Public Safety and Justice Programs*, one of the most fundamental aspects of the Federal Government's trust responsibility is the obligation to protect public safety on Tribal lands. Congress and the United States Supreme Court have long acknowledged this obligation, which Congress most recently reaffirmed in the Tribal Law and Order Act expressly "acknowledging the Federal nexus and distinct Federal responsibility to address and prevent crime in Indian Country." In 2018 the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that there continues to be "systematic underfunding of Tribal law enforcement and criminal justice systems, as well as structural barriers in the funding and operation of criminal justice systems in Indian Country" that undermine public safety.ⁱⁱ Recent experience demonstrates that addressing the lack of justice funding can make rapid and dramatic strides toward improving public safety.ⁱⁱⁱ Tribal justice systems simply need the resources to put their tools to work so they can protect women, children and families, address substance abuse, rehabilitate first-time offenders, and put serious criminals behind bars.

The underfunding of Tribal law enforcement and justice systems is well-documented. Most recently, the BIA submitted a report to Congress in 2017 estimating that to provide a minimum base level of service to all federally-recognized Tribes: \$1 billion is needed for Tribal law enforcement, \$1 billion is needed for Tribal courts, and \$222.8 million is needed to adequately fund existing detention centers.^{iv} Based on recent appropriation levels, BIA is generally funding Tribal law enforcement at about 22 percent of estimated need, Tribal detention at about 41 percent of estimated need, and Tribal courts at a dismal 4.5 percent of estimated need.

NCAI recommends an increase in base funding for Tribal courts, for a total of \$83 million, which would include courts in Public Law 280 jurisdictions. NCAI also recommends an increase to BIA Law Enforcement of \$200 million, for a total of \$573 million.

BIA Social Services help to address the underlying conditions such as drug addiction, poverty, and violence that tend to create and perpetuate the circumstances that produce victims. Sub-activities include services in the areas of family and domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and protective services. However, many

ⁱⁱ U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. (2018). *Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans* (p. 32). Received from <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/12-20-Broken-Promises.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Michael S. Black, Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Testimony, Briefing Transcript, p. 136; see also Dep't of the Interior, press release, March 4, 2014, https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/public/press_release/pdf/idc1-025752.pdf (announcing Tiwahe Initiative to promote the stability and security of Native American families).

^{iv} Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services. "Report to Congress on Spending, Staffing, and Estimated Funding Costs for Public Safety and Justice Programs in Indian Country," Aug. 16, 2016, available at <https://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xojs/documents/document/idc2-051817.pdf>

Tribes' Social Services departments are understaffed and experience high turnover rates. As an example, in fiscal year 2017, Osage Nation case workers averaged 25–30 cases a month each. This exceeds the standard of one case worker for every 15 cases administered. A lack of increased yearly funding tends to hinder these protective services. NCAI recommends \$55 million for BIA Social Services in fiscal year 2020.

In addition to public safety and human services, infrastructure remains an area of high need. A transportation program that is vital to infrastructure in Indian Country is the *BIA Road Maintenance Program*, which is funded and authorized under the Department of the Interior. The BIA Road Maintenance Program is critical to BIA owned roads and facilities. Currently, BIA is responsible for maintaining approximately 29,400 miles of roads in Indian Country including 900 bridges. The condition of these roads is increasingly concerning for Tribal citizens and all surrounding communities. The lack of sufficient transportation infrastructure also hampers economic development opportunities for Tribal nations and their citizens.

According to a recent GAO Report published in May 2017, *Better Data Could Improve Road Management and Inform Indian Student Attendance Strategies*,^v BIA did not provide adequate documents on road maintenance and no process exists for Tribal nations to properly report on road maintenance. The BIA conducted a road maintenance survey, which found that the cost of road maintenance more than doubled the allocated amount of funding for proper maintenance in fiscal year 2018 and that deferred maintenance had risen to \$392 million for BIA roads. Further data on road maintenance is needed to adequately address the deferred maintenance of roads throughout Indian Country. Increased funding for the BIA Road Maintenance program is needed in order to begin to address public safety and commercial activity concerns that affect all Americans. \$50 million is requested to begin to address the deferred roads maintenance need in Indian Country.

Overall, BIA provides funding for many public safety, education, human services, and natural resource programs that cannot be addressed fully in this testimony. NCAI supports the testimony of other national Tribal organizations, such as the National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Indian Education Association, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and others who have also developed rigorous requests to address the treaty and trust obligations funded in the Interior-Environment spending bill.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The Federal responsibility for healthcare is also rooted in the treaty and trust promises. Yet, the Federal Government has never fully lived up to this responsibility. Appropriations for the IHS have never been adequate to meet basic patient needs, and healthcare is delivered in mostly third world conditions. The Indian healthcare delivery system faces significant funding disparities, notably in per capita spending between the IHS and other Federal healthcare programs. The IHS has been and continues to be a critical institution in securing the health and wellness of Tribal communities. In fiscal year 2017, the IHS per capita expenditures for patient health services were just \$3,332, compared to \$9,207 per person for healthcare spending nationally. New healthcare insurance opportunities and expanded Medicaid in some States may expand healthcare resources available to AI/ANs.

NCAI recommends the amount requested by the IHS Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup for fiscal year 2020, a total of \$7.03 billion for the Indian Health Service in fiscal year 2020. This amount would include an increase to maintain current services and other binding obligations and allow for program expansions, as listed in the Workgroup's fiscal year 2020 report.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NCAI requests funding for the Tribal General Assistance Program at \$99.5 million. Program capacity-building is a top environmental priority identified by Tribes as part of the EPA National Tribal Operations Committee National Tribal Caucus. The Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) is unique among Federal programs in that it provides a foundation which Tribes can leverage to support other greatly-needed programs, such as planning for climate change and natural resource management, energy efficiency activities, and small scale renewable energy projects. GAP funding is particularly critical to Alaska Native villages, where it provides 99 percent of the overall funding to address their fundamental and often dire needs, such as safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities, and the on-the-ground presence to help confront profound climate change impacts, such as eroding shore-

^vU.S. Government Accountability Office, 2017, Publication No.GAO-17-423

lines, thawing permafrost, threats to subsistence resources, and permanent relocation of Alaska Native communities.

This increased collaborative leveraging potential makes GAP a wise investment of Federal dollars. However, GAP funding has not kept pace with the growth of Tribal environmental programs over the years, forcing Tribes to perform the increased duties of maturing programs with fewer funds. Furthermore, the average cost for Tribes to sustain a basic environmental program was set at \$110,000 per Tribe in 1999 and has not been adjusted for inflation since then. Tribal demand for program implementation across various media includes the pressing need to establish climate change adaptation plans. A \$175,000 per Tribe distribution, totaling approximately \$99.5 million, reflects an equitable adjustment.

CONCLUSION

We look forward to working with this subcommittee on a nonpartisan basis to protect the Federal trust and treaty obligations in the budget. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

My name is Maureen Rosette and I am the President of the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH), which represents the 42 urban Indian healthcare organizations (UIOs) across the Nation who provide high-quality, culturally-competent care to urban Indians, constituting approximately 78 percent of all American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN). I would like to thank Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall for the opportunity to submit written testimony. Today's testimony will focus on the needs of urban Indian organizations (UIOs) that have title V contracts with the Indian Health Service (IHS).

As a preliminary issue, "urban Indian" refers to any AI/AN person who is not living on a reservation, either permanently or temporarily—often because of the Federal Government's forced relocation policy or in search of economic or educational opportunity. Congress has long recognized that the Federal Government's obligation to provide healthcare for AI/AN people follows them off of reservations. UIOs are an integral part of the Indian health system, which is comprised of the IHS, federally recognized Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations (I/T/Us). Currently, UIOs receive less than 1 percent of the IHS budget, and the IHS budget is currently underfunded at less than 50 percent of need creating serious budget constraints. UIOs do not have access to many of the critical cost saving programs available to the other facets of the I/T/U system.

Listed are NCUIH's recommendations to the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations:

Include Urban Indian Organizations in Language for ALL Health Programs

When Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) are not specifically mentioned in programmatic language they are most often excluded from participating in such programs. Many programs in the Health and Human Services appropriations bills include language for Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, but not for urban Indian organizations. Urban Indian Organizations are not considered Tribal organizations, which is a common misconception. Therefore, UIOs must be explicitly included to receive funding. Behavioral health grants, suicide prevention grants, and others. It is imperative UIOs receive parity for funding as UIOs rely on less than 1 percent of the Indian Health Service (IHS) funds, despite urban Indians being over 78 percent of the AI/AN population. UIOs also do not have access to other IHS line items like IHS and Tribal facilities. UIOs do not receive hospitals and health clinics money, purchase and referred care dollars, or IHS dental services dollars, and are not eligible for facilities dollars. UIOs operate from one line item in the IHS budget, the urban Indian line item, which provides 42 programs with \$51.3 million. We know IHS is underfunded at around \$3,000 per patient, we know for urban Indian health patients that number is less than \$400 per patient. NCUIH requests an increase to the urban Indian health line item to at least \$81 million to \$116 million, which would be a mere 2 percent of the IHS budget. The House Appropriations Committee has released a draft fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies funding bill that includes an almost \$30 million increase to the urban Indian line item, bringing funding to \$81 million—once passed, this would create a more equitable funding level for all AI/ANs.

Provide Protections from Shutdown Impacts with Funding Uncertainties

When limited UIO funding is delayed or cut off during events such as a government shutdown, UIOs suffer greatly. AI/AN people healthcare should not be held hostage by unrelated government shutdowns. NCUIH strongly recommends that UIO funding have the same protections and considerations as other Federal funding during times of sequestration and government shutdowns. For instance, Native American Lifelines of Baltimore is a small clinic that received three overdose patients during the last shutdown, two of which were fatal. They only receive \$922k from IHS to operate two facilities, one in Baltimore, one in Boston. IHS only gives them \$691 for mental health services for both facilities. The Indian Health Service system (I/T/U) should be provided with funding to ensure our patients don't suffer.

Provide UIOs With 100 Percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)

The amount of Medicaid service costs paid by the Federal Government is set by law at 100 percent for IHS and Tribes, but not for UIOs, because UIOs did not exist when that law was written. Although Congress intended 100 percent FMAP to support the Indian Health system, the Federal Government only pays 100 percent of the costs incurred by States to reimburse IHS and Tribal facilities for Medicaid services provided to an AI/AN, without the same consideration for the high-quality, culturally-competent care provided by UIOs. Created by Congress at the urging of Tribes to ensure that their Tribal citizens would receive appropriate healthcare off of reservations, UIOs are an integral part of the IHS system. Consequently, the failure to provide UIOs with 100 percent FMAP harms facilities that already do not have access to many resources, and it severely limits services for patients. Unfortunately, CMS needs Congress to add UIOs to 1905(b) of the Social Security Act to create parity. Therefore, we ask that you correct this problem in fiscal year 2020. Receiving 100 percent FMAP has a huge impact on the financial stability of UIOs. One of NCUIH's two Oklahoma facilities (the only two UIOs in the country that get 100 percent FMAP) reported that in the event of a prolonged shutdown they could remain open for 18 months; whereas 6 of 13 UIO-respondents reported that they could only sustain normal operations for 1 month or less.

Include UIOs in the Coverage of the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA)

Under FTCA, a facility's employees and eligible contractors are considered Federal employees and are immune from lawsuits for medical malpractice. IHS and Tribal providers, as well as other comparable Federal healthcare centers, are covered by the FTCA. Arbitrarily denied FTCA coverage, however, UIOs must buy their own expensive malpractice insurance. Two large, highly-regarded UIOs in Oklahoma each pay \$250,000 per year for malpractice insurance. Any help your subcommittee can provide would maximize the value of your appropriations to IHS and we would profoundly appreciate any assistance, including prompting relevant committees.

Implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Between IHS and the VA for the Provision of Health Care to AI/AN Veterans

The VA and IHS have implemented this MoU for IHS and Tribal providers, but not for UIOs. AI/AN veterans often prefer to use Indian healthcare providers for reasons related to performance, cultural competency, or availability of non-healthcare-related but Indian-specific services. The VA sometimes experiences surges in demand, which can often be satisfactorily offset through the use of UIOs. A recent Office of the Inspector General report found that 215 deceased veteran patients at the Phoenix VA Health Care System were awaiting specialist consultations on the date of their deaths. Native Health, a UIO that provides comprehensive services, is within walking distance of the Phoenix, AZ VA facility, and could have provided these services to AI/AN veterans, enabling the VA to focus on specialty services and reduce some of these wait times, in turn reducing the number of patient deaths that occur. Given their sacrifices, it is grievously wrong to oppose the provision of accessible, high-quality, culturally-competent healthcare by UIOs to AI/AN veterans.

Create Critical Funding Mechanism for Behavioral Health

In addition, IHS is currently considering moving its behavioral health initiatives, including the Domestic Violence Prevention Program and Suicide and Substance Abuse Prevention Program, from grants to direct distribution through Indian Self Determination Education and Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contracts and compacts, for which UIHPs are not eligible. It is widely known that behavioral health is a major issue in the AI/AN community. Thus, if IHS transfers distribution of its behavioral health initiatives to ISDEAA contracts and compacts, there must be a UIO set-aside of approximately \$12.2 million for Title V UIOs. This amount would enable all Title

V UIOs to receive the current average level of behavioral health grant funding available to urban organizations, as is rightfully available only to IHS-certified Title V UIOs. In addition, I'd like to express appreciation for inclusion of UIOs in the Special Behavioral Health Program for Indians. We support this being structured similar to Special Diabetes Programs for Indians (SDPI), which has been a resounding success for many UIOs. If this funding is instead transferred to direct funding to Tribes, there must be a set-aside of at least 20 percent to ensure this funding reaches urban AI/AN communities. In addition, it is critical that this funding remain available beyond current grant terms. With current funding for the Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Program, which has demonstrated considerable success in addressing behavioral health disparities and saving lives in Indian Country, expiring in 2021, Congress must act to ensure this success continues.

Hold UIOs Harmless from Unrelated Cost Assessments

UIOs are faced with chronic and severe underfunding and depend on every Federal dollar they receive to provide culturally-competent services to their urban AI/AN patients. Funds for Medical inflation and pay costs are necessary to cover the intended purpose; these costs often increase at high rates in urban areas where UIOs are located, thereby straining UIOs' already constrained budgets. Last year, IHS utilized a portion of the inflation funding increases from the fiscal year 2019 appropriations for a purpose distinct from inflation—to cover costs of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) Section 105(l) leases. As a result, UIOs only received a small portion of the amount of inflation funding designated to be dispersed to UIOs. The amount of 105(l) lease applications is increasing and UIOs' inflation funding is once again at risk. Inflation funding for UIOs should not be the solution to cover an unrelated budgetary constraint. UIOs are not eligible for, nor are they otherwise beneficiaries of, Section 105(l) leases and thus derive no benefit from this program. All UIO funds should thus not be impacted by this budget shortfall. A separate appropriation line item for these lease payments would provide a long-term fix to this issue and prevent additional harm from trickling down to urban AI/AN patients.

Reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) is critical to urban American Indian and Alaska Native communities who experience a higher prevalence of diabetes and a greater diabetes mortality rate than the general U.S. population living in those areas. Since the SDPI program began in 1997, UIOs have seen improvements in key diabetes care outcome for AI/ANs at their urban facilities over a 10 year period, from 2001–2011. It is imperative that SDPI be reauthorized before its expiration in September 2019.

We thank the committee for its efforts towards prioritizing funding to Indian Country and for holding this hearing. The staff at NCUIH is available to follow up on any future inquiries related to the submitted testimony or other urban Indian healthcare issues of policy or service.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and Members of the subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding fiscal year 2020 funding on behalf of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and thank you for your years of steadfast support for the natural resource conservation work of NFWF.

NFWF's fiscal year 2020 appropriations request will be matched at least dollar for dollar with non-Federal match to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats through local partnerships. By law, NFWF will accomplish this by applying 100 percent of the appropriated funding to on-the-ground conservation projects at ZERO administrative cost to the Federal Government.

We believe that NFWF is a sound investment in a time of constrained budgets because of our proven track record and statutory requirement to leverage Federal funding with private contributions to maximize conservation benefit. We appreciate the subcommittee's past support and respectfully request your approval of funding at the following levels:

—\$ 2.0 million with bill language through the Bureau of Land Management's Management of Lands and Resources appropriation (\$2 million above fiscal year 2019);

- \$ 7.022 million with bill language through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Resource Management appropriation (Same level as fiscal year 2019); and
- \$ 3.0 million with the standard annual bill language through the Forest Service’s National Forest System appropriation (Same level as fiscal year 2019).

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The fiscal year 2018 appropriation for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and NFWF partnership was made discretionary to the Director of the BLM. The Director chose to direct \$2.0 million in funding to NFWF. NFWF worked closely with the BLM, other Department of the Interior agencies and eleven Western States to implement a program to improve wildlife corridors for big game and other wildlife. This investment by BLM allowed NFWF and ConocoPhillips to bring in more than \$8.6 million in matching contributions, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$10.7 million. These projects will improve wildlife migrations as well as reduce the number of vehicle strikes with wildlife enhancing human safety.

NFWF did not receive a direct appropriation in fiscal year 2019, but prior to that, NFWF received directly appropriated funding from BLM since fiscal year 1995. In the 5-year span from fiscal year 2014–fiscal year 2018, NFWF leveraged \$14.0 million in BLM funds into \$75.2 million in on-the-ground conservation projects.

In fiscal year 2018 and continuing into fiscal year 2019, NFWF began a new and exciting partnership in the Pecos watershed with eight oil and gas companies (Anadarko Petroleum Company, Chevron Corp., Noble Energy, Occidental Petroleum, Shell Oil Company, Apache Corp., Marathon Oil Corp., and XTO Energy, Inc.), the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the States of New Mexico and Texas to proactively bolster populations of at-risk species. NFWF would add a portion of any fiscal year 2020 appropriated BLM funding to this new and creative partnership.

NFWF also utilized past BLM direct appropriations to partner with the Yukon River Fisheries Association and local Tribal Councils to aid in the delivery of Chinook salmon spawning grounds and engage Yukon River anglers in the voluntary conservation of Chinook salmon. Without the direct BLM appropriations, the ability to fund projects such as these will be diminished.

Requested BLM Bill Language:

“; of which \$2,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2020 subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for cost shared projects supporting conservation of Bureau lands; and such funds shall be advanced to the Foundation as a lump-sum grant without regard to when expenses are incurred.”

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has been a trusted partner since NFWF was created by Congress in 1984 and signed into law by President Reagan. In the past 5 years (fiscal year 2014–fiscal year 2018), the FWS appropriated funds received by NFWF have generated \$176.8 million in conservation impact through 434 projects. The funds appropriated to NFWF serve as a magnet to attract funds from the private sector to create public-private partnerships critical to restoring fish, wildlife and their habitats.

In the past, the FWS appropriation for NFWF has existed in the report accompanying the appropriations bill. However, we respectfully request that it be included in bill language. This will make NFWF’s direct appropriations in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Bill consistent across all agencies in the bill and expedite the permitting of conservation projects.

Requested FWS Bill Language

“; of which \$7,022,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2020 subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for cost-shared projects supporting conservation of wildlife and other natural resources; and such funds shall be advanced to the Foundation as a lump-sum grant without regard to when expenses are incurred.”

Because NFWF also works with FWS on discretionary cooperative agreements for conservation programs, we also respectfully support the highest possible funding levels for the Recovery Challenge matching grants, Delaware River Basin Conservation Act, Klamath Basin Restoration, and efforts to combat white-nosed syndrome in bats within the FWS, Resource Management appropriation.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

Congress has appropriated approximately \$3 million in annual funding to NFWF for partnerships with the United States Forest Service (USFS) since fiscal year 1998. From fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2018, NFWF turned \$15.0 million in USFS funds into \$114.2 million in on-the-ground conservation investments.

In fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2018, NFWF was recognized by the USFS's Region 5 as the "Partner of the Year" for the collaborative work with the USFS on post-fire watershed restoration, community engagement and hazardous fuels reduction.

NFWF also used direct USFS appropriations to continue the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program to hire Alaska Native youth with traditional ecological knowledge and who also speak the languages of local subsistence communities to work on conservation projects, and allowed NFWF to launch new programs such as the Central Appalachian Habitat Stewardship Program which promotes forest health and management in the States of Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

As directed in the Statement accompanying the fiscal year 2019 Omnibus Appropriation, NFWF is excited to report on the funding USFS has provided NFWF for each of the past 10 fiscal years, including specific projects and activities. We believe this report will illustrate the impressive power of private leverage and grantee match to stretch the Federal conservation dollar in tough budgetary times.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NFWF has partnered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since fiscal year 1997 and since fiscal year 2000 has worked with EPA to make grants to States and other grantees within the Geographic Programs appropriation. Therefore, we respectfully support the highest possible funding levels for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Chesapeake Bay, and Long Island Sound within the Environmental Protection Agency Geographic Programs. We also respectfully ask that the long-standing report language that delineates the amount of funding for nutrient and sediment removal grants and small watershed grants within the Chesapeake Bay program be continued (final fiscal year 2019 language is below).

"Chesapeake Bay.—The bill provides \$73,000,000 for the Chesapeake Bay program. From within the amount provided, \$6,000,000 is for nutrient and sediment removal grants and \$6,000,000 is for small watershed grants to control polluted runoff from urban, suburban and agriculture lands."

In addition to the Geographic Programs, EPA continues to be a major partner on NFWF's Five Star Urban Waters Program. In fiscal year 2018, NFWF worked with volunteers and resource based organizations to remove and improve the habitat for Chinook salmon along the Chena River in Fairbanks, Alaska. NFWF also partnered with EPA, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and local volunteers to implement a riparian habitat and education project near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

NFWF BACKGROUND

NFWF was established by Congress in 1984 to catalyze private investments to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats. In addition, every dollar directly appropriated to NFWF by Congress goes to on-the-ground conservation projects and NFWF charges no administrative costs. NFWF raises private funds not only to leverage appropriated dollars, but also to support the associated management costs of implementing the appropriated funds. Since its creation by Congress in 1984, NFWF has invested \$5.3 billion in to more than 17,500 projects while partnering with more than 4,500 organizations.

NFWF is required by law to match each directly federally-appropriated dollar with a minimum of one non-Federal dollar. We consistently exceed this requirement by leveraging Federal funds at more than a 2:1 average ratio while building consensus and emphasizing accountability, measurable results, and sustainable conservation outcomes.

NFWF remains fully transparent and is required by law to notify Congress 30 days in advance of every grant that exceeds \$10,000 in Federal funds. Details of all projects awarded during fiscal year 2018 can be found in NFWF's annual investment guide and all of NFWF's grants can be found on our website: <https://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/search/Pages/Grant-Search.aspx>

In fiscal year 2018, NFWF was audited by an independent accounting firm and they issued an unqualified report with no material weaknesses identified and no deficiencies identified. This is the TENTH consecutive year of unqualified audits. In

addition, NFWF has continually qualified as a low risk auditee under OMB guidelines.

In fiscal year 2018, through voluntary discretionary cooperative agreements, NFWF partnered with 16 Federal agencies or departments and more than 30 corporations to support implementation of Federal conservation priorities. These efforts focused on working landscapes, private landowner outreach, natural resource conservation, coastal resiliency and community-based restoration.

CONCLUSION

For more than three decades, NFWF has been at the forefront of national conservation activity. With our partners, NFWF has contributed to some of the Nation's most important conservation programs, invested millions in worthy and successful projects, and spearheaded programs to conserve our Nation's most treasured natural resources. We have a successful model of coordinating and leveraging Federal funds to attract support from the private sector to address the most significant threats to fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and members of the subcommittee, we greatly appreciate your continued support and stand ready to answer any questions you or your staff might have.

[This statement was submitted by Greg E. Knadle, Vice President of Government Affairs.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) requests that \$5 million be allocated in the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment & Related Agencies appropriations bill to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) within the Water Resources program to continue and expand implementation and maintenance of a national groundwater monitoring network (NGWMN).

In addition to funding, NGWA is also requesting report language extending eligibility of cooperative grant funding to Tribes, as well as State and local governments. Tribes are currently able to provide data to the network, but are not eligible to receive funding to create and/or maintain a groundwater monitoring network.

NGWA's interest in this program comes from its position that management of groundwater resources should be a coordinated effort between Federal, State and local governments based on the strengths of each government level, the best science available, and the nature of the resource. NGWA is the world's largest association of groundwater professionals, representing public and private sector engineers, scientists, water well contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers of groundwater related products and services.

The NGWMN is a great example of cooperation between levels of government, in order to manage and protect a vital natural resource.

Water is one of the most critical natural resources to human, ecosystem and economic survival. Nationally, over 40 percent of the drinking water supply comes from groundwater and, in some locations, it is relied on by 80 percent of Americans for drinking water. Groundwater also serves as a key source of agricultural irrigation water.

Despite the reliance on this natural resource, no systematic nationwide monitoring network is in place to measure what is currently available and how groundwater levels and quality may be changing over time. As with any valuable natural resource, groundwater reserves must be monitored to assist in planning and minimizing potential impacts from shortages or supply disruptions. Just as one cannot effectively oversee the Nation's economy without key data; one cannot adequately address the Nation's food, energy, economic, and drinking water security without understanding the extent, availability and sustainability of a critical input—groundwater.

Congress acknowledged the need for enhanced groundwater monitoring by authorizing a national groundwater monitoring network in Public Law 111-11 (Omnibus Public Land Management Act) in 2009, the SECURE Water Act, and viability of the network was proven through the completion of pilot projects in six States—Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, and Texas. These States voluntarily pilot-tested concepts for a national groundwater monitoring network as developed by the Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information's (ACWI) Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW).

Following completion of the pilots and reports on the viability of the NGWMN, congressional support for the network has enabled national implementation of the program:

- Fiscal year 2015: \$2.6 million (11 projects funded)
- Fiscal year 2016: \$3.6 million (24 projects funded)
- Fiscal year 2017: \$3.6 million (19 projects funded)
- Fiscal year 2018: \$3.6 million (24 projects funded)
- Fiscal year 2019: \$3.6 million (Awards pending)

Thirty-three States are currently contributing data to the network, and entities receiving cooperative agreements are able to apply for one or 2 years of support. Because of this limit on the number of years funding can be providing, the costs of ongoing maintenance of the network are expected to be minimal once all States are connected.

The NGWMN goes to great lengths to promote partnerships with State and local agencies receiving grants or providing data to the network. The State and local data providers retain ownership of the data and are credited as the providers.

Once implemented nationwide, the NGWMN would provide consistent, comparable nationwide data that would be accessible through a public web portal for Federal, State, local government and private sector users. In these tight fiscal times, the proposed network would build on existing State and Federal investments, maximizing their usefulness and leveraging current dollars to build toward systematic nationwide monitoring of the groundwater resource.

Grants are funded at a maximum of \$150,000 per award, and funding from the NGWMN will be used for two purposes:

1. Provide grants to cost share increased expenses to upgrade monitoring networks for the 50 States to meet the standards necessary to understand the Nation's groundwater resources. Activities funded include: site selection, web services development, well drilling, well maintenance, among others.
2. Support the additional work necessary for USGS to manage a national groundwater monitoring network and provide national data access through an Internet web portal.

A selection of State projects funded is listed below to demonstrate to type of work being funded by Congress in recent rounds of cooperative agreements:

Fiscal Year 2015.—*Utah Geological Survey*: Project is to become a new data provider for the NGWMN. Will use EPA Storet to serve water-quality data to the NGWMN. Well construction and Lithology web services will be established to connect to the Portal. Will also select and classify wells for the NGWMN, populate the NGWMN Well Registry, document data-collection and data management processes, and produce a final report. Will be providing water-quality data to the NGWMN.

Fiscal Year 2015.—*Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality*: Project is to become a new data provider for the NGWMN. Tasks include: Establish webservices to provide data to NGWMN Portal, select and classify wells for the NGWMN, populate the NGWMN Well Registry, document data-collection and data management processes, and produce a final report. Will be providing water-level data.

Fiscal Year 2016.—*Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*: A 2-year project to become a data provider to the NGWMN in the first year and provide persistent data support in the second year. The Minnesota PCA was a Pilot project participant with the Network; however, the web services they set up for the Pilot were no longer functional due to database upgrades. For this project, they will be updating their web services to serve data to the Portal again. This project will expand their coverage to all Principal aquifers across the State.

Fiscal Year 2017.—*Missouri Department of Natural Resources*: The Missouri DNR is a data provider through a Cooperative agreement with the USGS Missouri WSC. This is a 1 year project to remediate three wells that have been identified as having shallow groundwater enter the wells. The wells were examined using a borehole camera. The wells will be reconstructed by installing a shallow diameter liner and packers and grouting the well above the screen.

Fiscal Year 2017.—*Texas Water Development Board*: This is a 1 year project for providing persistent data services and site information gap filling. Lithology data for 900 wells will be entered into their new database from paper files as part of the site information gap filling work.

Fiscal Year 2018.—*Florida Department of Environmental Protection*: This is a 2-year project to become a new data provider of water-quality data to the NGWMN. Sites will be selected from a groundwater trend network of 49 wells and two springs. They will be providing persistent data service for year two of the project. Lithology data for selected wells will be updated in year two of the project.

Fiscal Year 2018.—*Ohio Department of Natural Resources*: The Ohio DNR is a current data provider through a Cooperative agreement with the USGS Ohio WSC. This is a 2-year project to do well maintenance and well drilling work. Well Maintenance work involves performing slug tests on 48 wells to determine connection to the aquifer. Two new wells will be drilled to fill gaps in the NGWMN coverage in Ohio.

A complete list of all cooperative agreements funded is available on the cooperative agreements page of the NGWMN portal's website . Each recipient of funding must also provide USGS a report, following the conclusion of the funding period.

Increased funding would enable the NGWMN to continue to grow and expand the number of States providing water quality and water level data. In addition, the types of work that could be funded by the network could also expand.

Though the amount of funding requested is small in the context of the Department of Interior's annual budget request, funding is vital considering that, for a small investment, States and the USGS can implement adequate monitoring of the hidden resource that provides over 40 percent of the Nation's drinking water supply and serves as a key driver for our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. With questions or in request of additional information, please contact Lauren Schapker, NGWA Government Affairs Director, at lschapker@ngwa.org.

[This statement was submitted by Lauren Schapker, Government Affairs Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Members of the subcommittee:

I am writing to testify on behalf of the National Humanities Alliance in support of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and particularly the crucial role it plays in preserving our cultural heritage in the face of disaster. With NEH support, the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation has trained and mobilized teams across the country to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies, saving countless artifacts, artworks, and books that would otherwise be lost.

A few examples illustrate the need for this work. In the days after Hurricane Katrina, firearms from the Civil War, covered in mud, sat on the banks of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Following Hurricane Sandy, costumes, props, and programs from the famed Martha Graham Dance Company floated in their storage space inundated by the storm surge. In the weeks after Hurricane Maria, swirls of mold covered the walls—from floor to ceiling—of a Puerto Rican library.

The sense of loss that accompanies disasters is acute. That sense is heightened when our collective cultural heritage is imperiled as well.

We rely on objects to learn from past generations and to carry our legacy into the future. Books, letters, records, photographs, film, works of art—whether located in our Nation's great museums or the cedar chest at home, our tangible cultural heritage is found in objects that are at risk of decomposing.

It is the job of cultural heritage conservators to slow down the processes of decay, working with museums, libraries, and archives collections staff to provide the best environmental conditions possible and perform treatments on objects as needed. Conservators are an impressive bunch. Versed in art history, studio art, and chemistry, they go through rigorous training in order to do the essential work of preserving our cultural heritage. In my role at the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, I work with a team of conservators and collections care professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to help collections affected by emergencies and disasters. This team, known as the National Heritage Responders, has done incredible work to salvage items when it seemed that all was lost.

The team's work has been consistently supported by the NEH. The agency has funded research projects that have informed response protocols and supported innovative publications. The NEH has likewise supported team deployments following major disaster events, providing these volunteers with the equipment and resources needed for success.

National Heritage Responders have a knowledge of materials on the molecular level that helps drive their decisionmaking processes in order to determine appropriate action. For example: while mold is a major threat for objects exposed to damp environments, some wet items can actually be frozen in order create a hostile setting for mold growth. Those objects can later be thawed and dried. Research and development of techniques in this area have moved forward in leaps and bounds over the past several decades. The NEH has played an important role in supporting this response work.

While having measures in place to effectively respond to disasters is essential, those activities don't take into account the full scope of the disaster cycle. Preparedness and mitigation require foresight, innovation, and cooperation. The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation manages a program called Alliance for Response which aims to bring together collections professionals with emergency managers and first responders on the local level.

These communities form cooperative disaster networks that work together to achieve collective goals: a network on the Mississippi Gulf Coast works closely with their emergency managers to share information with their members about upcoming storms, while a network in South Florida has a cultural heritage representative in their country Emergency Operations Center.

The NEH has been supporting the work of Alliance for Response networks since 2010. The agency's investment in the program has allowed for the launch of new networks across the country while providing resources for the existing networks, such as training opportunities and informational webinars.

Collaborating on the local level is essential, as each region faces their own challenges in terms of natural hazards. Increasingly extreme weather patterns are changing those hazards as well: California institutions face increased risk of wildfires, while hurricanes gather more power over warmer water, threatening those in their paths. Local networks are nimble in responding to these changing risks.

The NEH has, through their history of funding, recognized the importance of supporting collecting institutions as they prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. The impact of these efforts is significant.

When Hurricane Irma hit Florida in 2017, the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami—located on Biscayne Bay—suffered significant storm surge damage. However, just 4 months prior, the museum hosted an NEH-funded workshop on disaster response for the South Florida Alliance for Response network. After the storm, the museum's conservator knew to call the National Heritage Responders for assistance, which helped Vizcaya staff quickly stabilize the environment and minimize the impact of mold.

Conservators and collections care professionals face significant challenges in protecting our cultural heritage for future generations. There is ample evidence to show that strategic funding by the NEH has laid important groundwork, but there is still much work to be done. With increased funding, the NEH can support the networking and training that are essential in protecting cultural heritage from emergencies and disasters. This important work must continue to make sure that the human story is preserved.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

The National Humanities Alliance

The National Humanities Alliance (NHA) is a nationwide coalition of organizations advocating for the humanities on campuses, in communities, and on Capitol Hill. Founded in 1981, NHA is supported by over 200 member organizations, including: colleges, universities, libraries, museums, cultural organizations, State humanities councils, and scholarly, professional, and higher education associations. It is the only organization that brings together the U.S. humanities community as a whole.

Foundation for Advancement in Conservation

The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) supports conservation education, research, and outreach activities that increase understanding of our global cultural heritage.

[This statement was submitted by Jessica Unger, Emergency Programs Coordinator, Foundation for Advancement in Conservation.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in regards to fiscal

year 2020 appropriations. On behalf of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and the 573 federally-recognized Tribes we serve, I submit this testimony on the Indian Health Service (IHS) fiscal year 2020 budget.

Over the course of a century, the United States Federal Government entered into over 500 individual treaties with Tribal Nations that established the foundation for what we now call the Federal trust responsibility, which encompasses the provision of healthcare and public health services. This trust responsibility for health has been reaffirmed by Supreme Court rulings, Federal legislation, and presidential executive orders. The Indian Health Service (IHS) is the primary Federal agency entrusted with carrying out this duty; however, IHS has never been funded at the level of need. In fact, fiscal year 2017 per capita expenditures for medical care amounted to just \$4,078 within IHS, compared to \$9,726 nationally. Chronic underfunding of IHS has resulted in a lower quality of life and higher burden of preventable diseases among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs). For example, in South Dakota, average life expectancy for American Indians and Alaska Natives is 58 years, compared to 82 years for non-Hispanic Whites.¹

IHS ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

First, NIHB wishes to thank Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall for their leadership and strong support for securing advance appropriations for IHS. The most recent 35-day government shutdown destabilized Tribal governments and Native health delivery systems; as well as Native families, children and individuals. In fact, IHS was the only Federal health system impacted by the shutdown. Moreover, while IHS funding is not responsible for the Federal deficit nor were budget disputes preceding the shutdown specific to IHS, the Indian health system nevertheless felt the burden of the shutdown as many Tribes scrambled to keep health facilities open, to keep providers on their payroll, and to maintain services.

Advance appropriations honors the Federal trust responsibility and helps ensure that the Federal Government meets its obligations for health services to Tribes. Advance appropriations also protect Native health systems in the event that Congress cannot pass a full budget by the start of each fiscal year. In September 2018, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report (GAO-18-652) stating, “. . . uncertainty resulting from recurring continuing resolutions and from government shutdowns has led to adverse financial effects on Tribes and their healthcare programs.” Thus, advance appropriations would help provide better continuity of care, and would help insulate Tribes from unrelated budget negotiations. While advance appropriations will not solve chronic underfunding of IHS, Tribes and NIHB believe that advance appropriations are an important interim step that will prepare the IHS for a transition to mandatory funding.

SEQUESTRATION

We also urge you to fully exempt the Indian Health Service (IHS) from sequestration cuts that might occur in fiscal year 2020. Even a 2 percent reduction is too much for an agency that provides direct health services and is already severely underfunded. Failure to completely exempt Tribal governments from sequestration will mean that Tribal communities are deprived of essential functions, resulting in loss of opportunity and even loss of life.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Tribes and NIHB were pleased to see new line item requests in the fiscal year 2020 President's budget including a \$25 million line item to modernize Electronic Health Records (EHRs); \$25 million for HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C prevention and treatment; and \$20 million for a national Community Health Aide Program (CHAP). But while Indian Country supports funding for these initiatives, they must not come at the expense of other vitally important line items. For example, Tribes were dismayed at the proposed elimination of the Health Education program; by the roughly \$39 million in cuts to the Community Health Representative (CHR) program; approximately \$80 million in cuts to the Health Care Facilities Construction budget; and \$52 million in proposed cuts to preventive health services in the President's budget. These cuts would devastate an Indian health system that has little dedicated funding for public health and preventative services. Thus, we strongly urge the Committee to ensure critical programs are maintained and increased, in addition to securing funding for the new line items.

¹South Dakota Department of Health. 2012. Mortality Rates. <https://doh.sd.gov/Statistics/2012Vital/Mortality.pdf>

IHS TRIBAL BUDGET FORMULATION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

The following budget recommendations reflect the IHS Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup (TBFWG) recommendations for fiscal year 2021. The workgroup is comprised of Tribal leaders, technicians and researchers who come together each year to form Indian Country's priorities as they relate to IHS. Tribes recommend \$36.8 billion to fully fund IHS. Specifically, this amount includes \$22 billion for Medical Services; \$1.77 billion for Dental and Vision Services; \$4.29 billion for Community and Public Health Services; and \$9.28 billion for facility upgrades and upfront costs (non-recurring investments). To begin the 12 year phase-in of the full \$36.8 billion request, Tribes recommend a \$7.1 billion appropriation in fiscal year 2020. While all areas of the IHS budget are essential and in need of strong increases for fiscal year 2020, Tribes have identified several top priorities: *Hospitals & Clinics; Purchased/Referred Care (PRC); Mental Health; Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services; and Dental Services.*

Hospitals and Clinics

In fiscal year 2020, Tribes recommend \$2.5 billion for Hospitals and Clinics (H&C) which is \$349 million over the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. The H&C line item provides the base funding for the 650 hospitals, clinics, and health programs that operate on Indian reservations, predominantly in rural settings. IHS H&C are challenged by factors including increased demand resulting from a significantly growing population; increased rate of chronic diseases; rising medical inflation; difficulty in recruiting and retaining providers in rural healthcare settings; and lack of adequate facilities and equipment. Increasing H&C funding is necessary as it supports the following: all primary medical care services, including inpatient care; routine ambulatory care; and medical support services, such as laboratory, pharmacy, medical records, and information technology. It also provides the greatest flexibility to support public health initiatives targeting health conditions disproportionately affecting AI/ANs such as diabetes, cancer, and hepatitis.

Community Health Aide Program / Community Health Representatives

For fiscal year 2020, Tribes recommend \$83.2 million for the CHR program, which is an increase of \$20.3 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. The President's budget request for fiscal year 2020 proposes to phase out the CHR Program and replace it with a national CHAP initiative. While the CHAP initiative has shown much success, its expansion should not come at the expense of the critically important and highly successful CHR program. If this request were to be accepted, health services would fall flat and neither program would likely be able to effectively operate. For generations, CHRs have been integral to the fabric of health delivery in Indian Country and Tribes do not wish to see this historic program discontinued. CHRs provide services such as in-home patient assessment of medical conditions, glucose testing and blood pressure tests, preventive health screenings, and case management. They also help interpret prescriptions, which is critical for patient safety, especially for drugs with high risk of misuse.

There are more than 1,600 CHRs representing over 250 Tribes in all 12 IHS Areas, and 96 percent of CHR programs are operated by Tribes in partnership with IHS—one of the best examples of the Nation to Nation relationship between Tribes and the Federal Government. Program data from fiscal year 2016 demonstrated that CHRs conducted 340,270 home visits and provided 1,102,164 patient contacts/services on a variety of health related conditions. It is likely that far more contacts were made but not reflected in data due to reporting challenges. The Tribal recommendation for this line item would be to increase funding for the sole purpose of service delivery of CHR program services and functions. The CHAP program is also supported as a separate recommendation.

Health IT

IHS does not receive dedicated and sustainable funding to adequately support health IT infrastructure and training, including full deployment of EHRs. The current Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) is a comprehensive suite of applications that supports virtually all clinical and business operations at IHS and most Tribal facilities, from patient registration to billing. Many Tribes are choosing to leave the system because IHS cannot properly maintain and update the system due to budget constraints and interoperability challenges. In addition, the Veterans' Health Administration (VHA) has announced a move to a commercial off the shelf system. This puts RPMS at risk because it is linked to the VHA EHR and receives technical updates and changes as a result of the VHA's work. NIHB echoes the TBFWG request to create a separate funding line item for Health IT to protect H& C funds to support direct care services. The President's budget has proposed a

dedicated line item for EHR, so that IHS can either update the current EHR or initiate a process similar to that of the VHA.

Purchased/Referred Care (PRC)

For fiscal year 2020, Tribes recommend \$1.4 billion for the Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program. This is \$426 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. The PRC budget supports essential healthcare services from non-IHS or non-Tribal providers. In fiscal year 2016, PRC denied over \$423.6 million in services—that's 92,354 needed healthcare services that AI/ANs were denied from receiving due to budget constraints. That is unacceptable. Deferral of care costs lives in Indian Country, and contributes to the lower health status of AI/ANs.

Mental Health

For fiscal year 2020, Tribes are recommending \$254.7 million. This is \$149.4 million above fiscal year 2019 enacted. Addressing mental health disparities remains a top priority in Indian Country, and a significant increase in this line item helps ensure Tribal communities can develop innovative and culturally appropriate prevention programs. Research has demonstrated that AI/ANs do not prefer to seek mental health services through Western models of care due to lack of cultural sensitivity; which suggests that AI/ANs are not receiving the services they need to help reduce these alarming statistics.² In the California Area, for example, lack of funding is reflected by 2017 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) data. Of patients that were diagnosed with depression, only 30 percent received a prescription for antidepressants with enough medication and refills to last 12 weeks, and only 10 percent received enough to last 6 months. An increase in funding and subsequent staffing would allow a greater percentage of the population to be seen and treated by behavioral health specialists.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

For fiscal year 2020, Tribes recommend \$351.2 million for the Alcohol and Substance Abuse budget. This is \$105.7 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. Alcohol and substance addiction have grave impacts that ripple across Indian Country causing adverse health outcomes that break the social fabric of Tribal traditions and ties. NIHB was pleased to see \$10 million allocated for the Special Behavioral Health Pilot Program in the fiscal year 2019 conference report. We encourage the Committee to continue building on this investment, and work with authorizing committees to enact mandatory appropriations for this program, as is the case for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). SDPI works because it is consistent, broad-based funding that reaches a significant amount of Tribes, with a funding structure that Tribes prefer.

Dental Health

For fiscal year 2020, Tribes recommend \$288 million for Dental Health. This is \$83.3 million above the fiscal year 2019 level. In the general U.S. population, there is one dentist for every 1,500 people; but in Indian Country, there is only one dentist for every 2,800 people. Nationally, AI/AN children have the highest rate of tooth decay. This is why Tribes continue to advocate for the expansion of Dental Therapists (DTs), whom have been practicing successfully in Alaskan Native Villages for over a decade. DTs are primary oral health providers that live and work in the communities they serve providing routine care to patients so that the need for emergency services is minimized and patients are experiencing greater overall oral health outcomes.

Facilities

For fiscal year 2020, Tribes recommend a total of \$887.9 million for facilities appropriations which is an increase of \$9 million over the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. These increases will be used to improve maintenance of IHS facilities, speed up the funding of projects on the IHS Healthcare priority list, and improve sanitation conditions in Tribal communities. IHS facilities are some of the oldest health facilities in the Nation. Whereas the average age of mainstream hospital is roughly 10 years, at current rates of funding, an IHS facility built today would not be replaced for another 400 years!³ Investments in Indian health facilities will allow the

²Walls, M. L., Johnson, K. D., Whitbeck, L. B., & Hoyt, D. R. (2006). Mental health and substance abuse services preferences among American Indian people of the northern Midwest. *Community Mental Health Journal*, 42, 521–535.

³Federal Indian Trust Responsibility: "The Quest for Equitable and Quality Indian Healthcare—The National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup's Recommendations on the Indian Health Service Fiscal Year 2018 Budget." June 2016. P. 64.

care provided in our communities to commensurate other health systems in the United States.

[This statement was submitted by Victoria Kitcheyan, Chairperson.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). Founded in 1919, NPCA is the leading national, independent voice for protecting and enhancing America's National Park System for present and future generations. I appreciate the opportunity to provide our views regarding the National Park Service (NPS) fiscal year 2020 budget and funding issues facing our national parks this year.

National parks protect America's heritage and deliver robust economic returns of \$10 in economic benefits nationally for every dollar invested in the NPS. In 2017, more than \$18 billion in visitor spending supported nearly \$36 billion in economic activity and 306,000 jobs. NPCA and other polling indicates the vast popularity of national parks and strong bipartisan support for adequately funding them. And of course, they are deeply loved by the American people in part because they protect our cultural and natural heritage.

We acknowledge the tremendous challenge the subcommittee faces in setting thoughtful spending priorities, so we are grateful for your consistent support for the National Park Service. NPCA and our partners in the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition commend your subcommittee for providing needed increases for the National Park Service the last six fiscal years, with particularly commendable increases in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2018. This will be helpful for parks to address their funding challenges. As they are still considerably behind where they need to be to meet their mission, we urge you to do your best to build on this support in fiscal year 2020.

Top three fiscal year 2020 Priorities: NPCA requests appropriated funding for NPS with a focus on these accounts:

1. \$2.606 billion for 'Operation of the National Park System'
2. \$508.6 million for 'National Parks Construction'
3. \$30 million for 'National Park Partnerships'/Centennial Challenge

These requests are based upon the proportional increases in fiscal year 2016, recognizing that Congress has met these goals before. There are numerous other NPS accounts and programs important to us, and we outline several of them later in this testimony.

The President's fiscal year 2020 budget: Not helpful to your work in fiscal year 2020 is yet another draconian and unrealistic president's budget. Cuts to park service staffing, repairs and other needs would set the park service back considerably. Proposed deep cuts to EPA and other agencies important to protecting parks' environment are further damaging. We commend Congress for wholeheartedly rejecting these cuts last year and urge that you continue to support our parks.

The need for a funding deal and an improved 302(b) allocation for the Interior and Environment subcommittee: We respect that this fiscal year was painful and hope that fiscal year 2020 can be far more functional. We urge decision-makers and the president to work together to agree to a deal to lift the budget caps for the final 2 years of the Budget Control Act. To do otherwise would be vastly damaging to nondiscretionary needs including for our national parks. We urge an improved 302(b) allocation to meet needs at parks and for other agencies and programs under your jurisdiction.

Appropriated funding for the deferred maintenance backlog: The backlog continues to threaten the protection of nationally significant resources and, eventually the experience of visitors. Investments are needed for visitor centers, trails, water systems, and more. The subcommittee's recent increases for maintenance accounts the last several years have been very helpful for national parks. Unfortunately, the backlog grew by more than \$300 million during fiscal year 2017 and despite increases since then, we know that more is needed to build on that good work to chip away at the now \$11.9 billion backlog.

Support for our request would help address the backlog with investments in the repair/rehab and cyclic maintenance Operations subaccounts, and line-item construction subaccount. For your information, we are also urging the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development subcommittee to fund at the fully authorized \$100 million annually the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program, which funds transportation infrastructure for parks and other Federal lands,

and Tribal lands. We were grateful for the \$25 million appropriated to this fund in fiscal year 2019. We hope that subcommittee can meet the fully authorized amount this fiscal year, and even provide a full \$175 million to catch up on the shortfall in this year's appropriation.

Centennial Challenge: This program provides Federal funds to match private funds for projects throughout the park system that improve the visitor experience, including but not limited to deferred maintenance projects. We commend this subcommittee for the increases for the program the last three fiscal years. This support has leveraged more than two dollars for every dollar invested for signature projects across the National Park System that enhance the visiting experience. Many more philanthropic opportunities await, so we hope the subcommittee can increase funding for this successful program that enjoys strong bipartisan support.

We commend Congress for passage of the Centennial Act in 2016 to dedicate funding to that program and to a newly established endowment. Given the extraordinary philanthropic interest in the program, sustained or increased appropriations in addition to those funds would help leverage additional philanthropic dollars—a wise investment. We understand the intent of the committee in directing Centennial Challenge dollars to focus on deferred maintenance. While deferred maintenance projects funded by this program are critical, NPCA respectfully reminds the committee of the importance of other philanthropically-driven projects that improve the visiting experience in ways beyond maintenance.

Dedicated backlog funding: We continue to urge Congress to recognize that a more realistic long-term solution is needed to address the maintenance backlog. Under current allocations established by the Budget Control Act, and even beyond given the constraints of the appropriations process, it is difficult to see how this subcommittee will be able to address even the highest priority non-transportation facilities' needs. We also recognize the constraints of the Highway Trust Fund in meeting the bulk of park transportation infrastructure needs. These funding sources are simply limited in their ability to address the large size of the backlog.

NPCA is a strong advocate for the Restore Our Parks/Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (S. 500/H.R. 1225). We urge the members of the committee to cosponsor the bill and work with other members of Congress and the administration to ensure passage of a bill that dedicates robust and dependable funding to the maintenance challenge.

We respectfully request Operations investments for non-maintenance needs: While the maintenance backlog is one of our highest funding priorities, we do not want a focus on the backlog to cause other needed work to fall further behind; therefore, we respectfully request broad investments in park operations to address the many operating needs beyond maintenance.

In recent years, NPS has experienced a gradual erosion of staff in most years. As you know, these losses can be damaging, with impacts such as less day-to-day maintenance, less scientific inventory and monitoring, reduced hours or even closed public facilities, fewer visitor programs, and other challenges to parks fulfilling their mission. The challenge is compounded by significant increases in visitation that require staff time. Between 2011 and 2018, NPS experienced a 14 percent reduction in staff while at the same time the National Park System experienced a 14 percent increase in visitation. We appreciate the committee's attention to these ongoing needs, and that while the maintenance backlog is a profound problem that NPCA and others are prioritizing, these other needs must be addressed.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): The acquisition of inholdings is directly related to better managing the places in which our Nation already has made a significant investment. Thus, we urge support for the NPS Federal land acquisition and management portion of LWCF, a critical tool for protecting our national parks. We applaud Congress for the recent permanent reauthorization of LWCF, which was an exciting show of support for this important program. We ask Congress to build on this support by providing more robust appropriations and dedicated funding at its fully authorized amount of \$900 million annually. Accordingly, we urge support for S. 1081, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act.

We commend the recent congressional recognition for supporting both LWCF and deferred maintenance and urge Congress to support dedicated funding for both these important needs.

National Heritage Areas (NHAs): NPCA is a strong supporter of the National Heritage Area program. The more than fifty existing NHAs have generated \$12 billion in economic activity and \$1.2 billion in tax revenues and generated over 900,000 volunteer service hours. This mighty program with a modest budget deserves support from both Congress and the president.

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF): The HPF provides the primary source of funding for State Historic and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in all 50 States. The HPF also supports the Historic Tax Credit program, responsible for the rehabilitation of over 40,000 buildings, the creation of 2.5 million jobs and the leveraging of \$117 billion in private investments in historic preservation projects. We request continued support for this important program, with gradual increases until it reaches its fully authorized amount of \$150 million annually.

Policy Riders: Efforts to attach environmentally damaging policy riders only further threatens the appropriations process, so we were grateful that the final fiscal year 2019 bill was largely free of the many proposed riders that would have threatened parks, their ecosystems, and the health of visitors and wildlife within them. We urge continued rejection of efforts to attach damaging riders.

National Park Fees: NPCA recognizes that fees play an important role in supplementing Federal funds, but they can never realistically be a major funding source for parks. We forcefully opposed the administration's excessive effort to increase fees at 17 parks during peak season and commend their withdrawing that effort. While the new fees will be more modest, on top of recent fee increases, we fear the higher amounts could price Americans out of the parks they own. We are urging the administration to research the price point at which fees do not discourage visitation, particularly for lower income families. We ask Congress to consider setting those fee levels to be adjusted every two or 3 years by inflation automatically, thus reducing the complications that arise with fee decisions and keeping fees at a fair and even rate in constant dollars.

We urge the committee in general to continue exercising oversight of fees to keep parks affordable.

The Administration's Department of the Interior Reorganization Effort: We remain deeply concerned about the administration's proposal to reorganize the Department. Our chief concerns are: a lack of transparency and public involvement; a lack of clarity on the problems to be solved, the purposes and goals of the proposal and its components, and the suggested timeline for implementation; the potential for the proposal to erode the unique NPS mission; shifting the number and role of regional offices and staff; the potential for the effort to reduce the capacity, presence or coordinating capacity of the Washington Support Office (WASO), Denver Service Center and regional support offices; the potential cost of the proposal to an under-resourced park service; and the potential this proposal could be connected with a workforce reduction effort.

We commend the committee's extensive and improved fiscal year 2019 report language exercising oversight over this proposal and appreciate your continued oversight to ensure the integrity of NPS and the Department more broadly. This proposal threatens to undermine the authority of the National Park Service.

The recent government shutdown: The recent government shutdown was extraordinarily damaging to our national parks, their visitors, partner groups, park staff and businesses. It should never be repeated. This shutdown was made much worse not only by its extended duration—more than twice the length of the October 2013 shutdown—but by the administration's damaging decisions to leave many parks partially open despite a lack of staff, and then to use fee dollars intended for other purposes to extend this damaging situation.

We contend the administration violated, at a minimum, the spirit of several laws but was also in clear violation of the Organic Act that established the park service by leaving parks open to harm and continuing the situation despite this clear harm. We commend Chairwoman McCollum for exercising oversight to hold the administration responsible for its decisions and urge you to continue this oversight. Among other fears we continue to have is that the Department of the Interior will seek to reprogram badly needed operating dollars for staffing at the border, as they did last year. The administration appears to be of the philosophy that parks can operate with insufficient staff and resources and that they can shift funds by going around appropriators, who hold the power of the purse as you know well. Furthermore, decisions such as these only contribute to the funding woes with which the park service already struggles.

In conclusion: We recognize the subcommittee's constrained allocation, and thus commend the recent funding increases to NPS and commitment to our parks well-being. We urge a budget deal, an improved subcommittee allocation, and for you to provide the best funding level possible for NPS in fiscal year 2020 to help the agency recover from underfunding. Further, we appreciate your oversight over the administration's proposals regarding fees and reorganization, and the reprogramming of funds and other damaging decisions during the shutdown and beyond.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[This statement was submitted by John Garder, Senior Director of Budget and Appropriations.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, I appreciate this opportunity to present the National Trust for Historic Preservation's recommendations for fiscal year 2020 appropriations. My name is Tom Cassidy and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and Policy. The National Trust is a privately-funded nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949. We work to save America's historic places to enrich our future.

We look forward to working with this subcommittee as you address the ongoing needs for investments to sustain our Nation's rich heritage of cultural and historic resources that also generate lasting economic and civic vitality for communities throughout the Nation.

National Park Service: Historic Preservation Fund.—The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the principal source of funding to implement the Nation's historic preservation programs. The National Trust is enormously appreciative of the strong funding levels the Committee has provided in recent years, including fiscal year 2019's \$102.66 million, the highest level of HPF funding in history. HPF funding supports fundamental preservation activities such as survey, nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, public education, as well as project review required the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HTC) projects.

We request that Congress provide a total fiscal year 2020 HPF appropriation of \$148.5 million. Within that funding we recommend:

- \$60 million for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs);
- \$20 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs);
- \$5 million for a competitive grant program for SHPOs and THPOs to invest in geographic information systems-based mapping and digitization of historic resources—this would bring 21st century technology to the identification of historic resources at the very earliest stages of project planning leading both to protection of historic sites and promoting more efficient delivery of infrastructure projects;
- \$30 million for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of efforts to advance civil rights of underrepresented communities, \$20 million of which is to preserve the sites and stories of the African American Civil Rights movement—this will ensure grants to preserve the sites and stories of civil rights for all Americans;
- \$10 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to preserve and rehabilitate historic buildings;
- \$15 million for Save America's Treasures grants;
- \$7.5 million for preservation grants to revitalize historic properties of national, state, and local significance;
- \$1 million for competitive grants for the survey and nomination of properties associated with communities currently underrepresented on the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks.

National Park Service: Operation of the National Park System.—The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for 421 units of the National Park System ranging from the battlefields where our ancestors fought and died to recent additions like the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and the Reconstruction Era National Monument. Over the past 25 years, more than 50 new parks have been added to the park system, many of which preserve historic places and themes that have been underrepresented within the system. We encourage the Committee to provide at least level funding of \$2.5 billion from fiscal year 2019 to maintain stewardship of historic and cultural resources and prevent reductions in visitor services at a time when our national parks are more popular than ever. Within this funding, we recommend robust funding for Resource Stewardship, including \$2 million for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, \$2 million for the recently established African American Civil Rights Network, and \$2 million for the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network established in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9).

National Park Service: Deferred Maintenance.—The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for maintaining a system comprised of more than 84 million acres that tells the stories of remarkable people and events in our country's history. Unfortunately, after 100 years of operation and inconsistent public funding, the National Park System faces a deferred maintenance backlog estimated at nearly \$12 billion, of which 47 percent is attributed to historic assets. Deferred maintenance

in our national parks puts historic and cultural sites at risk of permanent damage or loss, and in the absence of funding, the condition of these assets will continue to deteriorate and become more expensive to repair and preserve in the future.

—*Construction.*—We recommend at least \$160 million for Line Item Construction projects that address the deferred maintenance for the NPS' highest priority non-transportation assets with projects greater than \$1 million.

—*Repair and Rehabilitation; Cyclic Maintenance.*—We are enormously appreciative of the Committee's commitment to enhancing these accounts with significant investments since fiscal year 2016; it is making a significant impact on addressing the long-term maintenance needs of the parks. We recommend a continuation of these impactful investments with \$150 million for Repair and Rehabilitation, an increase of \$14 million above fiscal year 2019 enacted and \$166 million for Cyclic Maintenance, an increase of \$15 million above fiscal year 2019 enacted.

—*Dedicated Funding for Deferred Maintenance.*—We strongly support the creation of a reliable, dedicated Federal funding source distinct from annual appropriations to address the deferred maintenance backlog, as provided in the bipartisan Restore Our Parks Act (S. 500) introduced in the Senate and the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 1225) introduced in the House.

—*Leasing Historic Structures in National Parks.*—We appreciate the Committees' strong support of expanded use of historic leasing authorities by the NPS. Leasing is a well-established tool that can bring non-Federal resources to the rehabilitation and use of under-utilized or abandoned buildings within the parks. I testified at a House Natural Resources Committee field hearing on this topic in Hot Springs, AR last September. We are hopeful that the administration will give greater priority to this important issue this year.

—*Volunteerism.*—The National Trust recognizes that direct Federal funding is insufficient to provide all the resources necessary to maintain the parks. As part of our commitment to assist the NPS with reducing the maintenance backlog of historic properties, the National Trust launched the HOPE Crew (which stands for the Hands-On Preservation Experience) initiative in 2014. The HOPE Crew program has trained over 700 young people and veterans and engaged 3,000 volunteers at over 150 projects nationwide, completing 120,000 hours and helping to support \$18 million in preservation work. This work includes rehabilitating structures at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Shenandoah National Park. Projects like these help to reduce the maintenance backlog while providing job skills and education for the next generation of stewards of America's most important historic sites.

National Park Service: Cultural Programs.—Within its cultural programs, the NPS manages the National Register of Historic Places certifies Federal Historic Tax Credit projects, coordinates Federal archaeology programs, and provides funding through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Grants, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants, and American Battlefield Protection Program Assistance Grants. The National Trust recommends \$28 million in fiscal year 2020, an increase of about \$2.5 million from fiscal year 2019. Increased funding will enhance preservation of and access to the National Register, including modernizing its information system. It will also support sustained demands to review and approve Federal historic tax credits.

National Park Service: International Park Affairs, Office of International Affairs.—The National Trust recommends \$1.926 million for International Park Affairs, including at least \$1.25 million for the Office of International Affairs to ensure engagement in the World Heritage Program and support the dozens of communities and sites across the country seeking nomination to the World Heritage List. This would be a \$278,000 increase above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. The Office of International Affairs is responsible for selecting sites for the World Heritage Tentative List and shepherding them through the detailed nomination process. Examples of pending sites include Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks (Ohio) and Civil Rights Movement Sites (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi). We oppose the administration's proposal to shift the Southwest Border Resource Protection Program into the Office of International Affairs and at the same time drastically reduce overall program funding.

National Park Service: National Heritage Areas.—We recommend \$32 million for the Heritage Partnership Program and National Heritage Areas (NHAs). This funding supports commissions and grants to the now 55 individual NHAs, as well as administrative support for coordination, guidance, assistance, and training. According

to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, enhanced funding of \$32 million will ensure that current areas can continue their work.

Bureau of Land Management: Cultural Resources Management.—The BLM oversees the largest, most diverse and scientifically important collection of historic and cultural resources on our Nation's public lands, as well as the museum collections and data associated with them. The cultural resources program also supports NHPA Section 106 review of land-use proposals, Section 110 inventory and protection of cultural resources, compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native Governments. We recommend \$20 million, a modest increase of about \$3 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. Increased funding is necessary to fulfill BLM's statutory requirements for inventory and protection of cultural resources. Funding would also support ongoing collaboration with western SHPOs through the Cultural Resources Data Partnership to digitize and standardize data in a GIS format through the National Cultural Resources Information Management System. This effort promotes consideration of cultural resources early in the planning process when it can inform siting decisions and reduce potential conflicts with cultural resources.

Bureau of Land Management: National Landscape Conservation System.—The BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (National Conservation Lands) includes 36 million acres of congressionally and presidentially designated lands, including National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. This includes new additions such as the Bears Ears National Monument. We encourage the Committee to provide \$45 million to the base program for the National Landscape Conservation System, an increase of \$5.181 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. An increase will allow for greater inventory and monitoring of cultural resources, prevent critical damage to the resources found in these areas, ensure proper management, and provide for a quality visitor experience. We also support providing at least level funding for wilderness management and national monument management on Oregon and California Grant Lands.

Department-Wide: Land and Water Conservation Fund.—The National Trust supports robust funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and we encourage the Committee to continue increasing LWCF toward its authorized level of \$900 million. Many of the Nation's most significant historic and cultural landscapes have been permanently protected through LWCF investments, including Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, and Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. In total, more than \$550 million has been invested to acquire historic sites and 137,000 acres in 162 NPS units. Within LWCF funding, we encourage the Committee to provide at least level funding of \$10 million for the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Independent Agencies: National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities.—We urge the Committee to provide \$167.5 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). NEA and NEH funding is critical to communities around the country. It has also supported efforts by the National Trust's Historic Sites and others to tell a fuller American story and engage visitors with history in compelling ways. For example, support from the NEA has created programs like Art and Shadows at the Shadows-on-the-Teche in Louisiana, which put regionally-based artists in residence at the site, resulting in programming that attracted new audiences and brought people from around the country to the town's downtown commercial district. NEH support has brought teachers from around the country to learn about history in the places that it was made and to carry those experiences back to their classrooms, including exploring the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier and discovering the rich, but largely unknown, African American history in the President's neighborhood at Decatur House.

Independent Agencies: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.—We recommend at least \$7 million for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). In fiscal year 2020, the ACHP will continue to play an important role in efforts to improve the delivery of major infrastructure projects and continue to focus on improving consultation with Indian Tribes to make environmental reviews more efficient and expeditious for infrastructure projects. An increase in funding would enable the ACHP to better address new requirements regarding information technology and cybersecurity and annual government mandated personnel cost increases, which put a strain on the ACHP's budget.

Thank you for considering our testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[This statement was submitted by Tom Cassidy, Vice President for Government Relations and Policy.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee:

The National Wildlife Refuge Association and its membership of representatives from Refuge Friends organizations and concerned citizens thank you for your support for the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) particularly for the small funding increases over the last several fiscal years. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the fiscal year 2020 Interior Appropriations bill and respectfully request:

- \$586 million for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) accounts of the Refuge System;
- \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), with \$150 million allocated for the FWS, including these high priority requests:
 - \$10 million for Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area (FL);
 - \$6 million for Silvio O. Conte NFWR (CT, NH, VT, MA);
 - \$3 million for Cache River NWR (AR);
 - \$2 million for Bear River Watershed Conservation Area (WY, ID, UT);
 - \$2 million for Blackwater NWR (MD);
 - \$2 million for Clarks River NWR (KY);
 - \$8 million for Hakalau Forest NWR (HI); and
 - \$8 million for the Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area (ND, SD);
- \$50 million for the Refuge Fund;
- \$75 million for the FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program;
- \$75 million for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program;
- \$47.6 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund;
- \$6 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund.

All of the programs delineated above add value both to wildlife conservation in all 50 States and to the economic activity in local communities. Wildlife refuges and the NWRS average almost \$5 in economic return for every \$1 appropriated. By far, the biggest challenge facing the Refuge System today is the completely inadequate budgets that fail to cover the cost of maintaining the incredibly rich and diverse wildlife habitats that make up the Refuge System.

The funding gap that has arisen due to low budget allocations over the last decade has degraded critical wildlife habitat and imperil important species. We must change this trajectory.

The Refuge System is currently responsible for 835 million acres of land and water. Of that total, 740 million acres are included in the 5 Marine National Monuments created by Presidents Bush and Obama, yet very little additional funding has been provided to these water resources since their initial creation in 2006.

The Service is also expanding its outreach by working to make conservation more accessible to the American public via urban refuges and urban partnerships. To begin bridging these gaps, the Refuge Association urges Congress to fund these critical programs that leverage Federal dollars and serve as economic drivers.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM—OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

The Refuge Association chairs the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), a 25-year-old diverse coalition of 23 sporting, conservation, and scientific organizations representing more than 16 million Americans that supports increased funding for the Refuge System. CARE estimates the NWRS needs at least \$900 million annually to manage its 95 million land acres and 740 million acres of marine national monuments. Yet the Refuge System is currently funded at roughly half that amount—\$487.7 million or 58¢ per acre.

The Refuge System cannot fulfill its obligation to the American public, our wildlife, and 55.8 million annual visitors without increases in maintenance and operation funds.

Funding for the Refuge System has declined substantially from a funding level of \$503 million in fiscal year 2010 to its current fiscal year 2019 \$488 million—\$92 million below the \$580 million it needs just to keep pace with inflation and salary increases. This has forced the Service to cut back on programs and create efficiencies whenever possible—efficiencies that are sometimes harmful or even dangerous. For example, many refuges have been placed into complexes, where staff travel sometimes large distances to juggle duties on multiple refuges. Three States

have no refuge law enforcement staff on the ground, and 13 others have only one law enforcement officer for the entire State. Several States have no visitor services or environmental education staff.

Even with these challenges, the Service has risen to the occasion and taken care of the lands and waters entrusted to it. Staff work overtime and on weekends. Law enforcement staff are pulled off their duty station to cover shifts on the southern border. And the Service has cut its deferred maintenance backlog in half from \$2.7 billion to \$1.16 billion. But budget cuts also led to the loss of 488 positions since fiscal year 2011. Because most refuge lands and waters are highly managed to provide optimal habitat conditions, this deterioration in staffing has had a dramatic impact resulting in significant declines in habitat protection and management, hunting, fishing, volunteerism and scientific research.

Visitation to all refuges jumped by 8 million over the last 6 years. Overall, more people are looking to recreate on wildlife refuges, yet understaffed refuges struggle to provide those opportunities. Reductions in visitor services can be extremely troubling to constituencies who want to visit. At Tualatin River NWR in Oregon, elimination of the visitor services position cut all teacher training workshops and community outreach. Prior to this loss, over 100 teachers were trained each year at the refuge. Due to budget shortfalls, Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland—the refuge closest to the Nation's Capitol—has cut back on school programs, reduced its visitor service staff by half, and even closed its visitor's center every Thursday.

Equally troubling is a 15 percent drop in the number of volunteers since fiscal year 2011. At a time when record numbers of Americans are retiring and have the capability and desire to give back, the Service's ability to oversee their efforts has been curtailed. Volunteers provide an additional 20 percent of work on our national wildlife refuges, yet they are being turned away when the System needs them the most.

We cannot emphasize enough how important it is to the health of our Nation's national wildlife refuges that funding be increased, and increased substantially. We are asking that your subcommittee provide nearly a \$100 million increase, and we do not ask this lightly. We understand the budget challenges this committee faces, but the situation on the ground is critical. The Refuge System is bare bones right now and cannot face more cuts. Every year, more and more refuges are closed to the public, habitat degrades, and visitors are turned away.

The Refuge Association appreciates the subcommittee's consideration of our request of \$586 million for fiscal year 2020 for National Wildlife Refuge System Operations and Maintenance.

STRATEGIC GROWTH—LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is an essential tool for protecting the integrity of the Refuge System and is the primary funding source for land and conservation easement acquisition by Federal land agencies. Some in Congress have argued that public lands like the Refuge System can't manage what they have and thus, all land acquisition should end. We believe that land acquisition in fee simple and as part of a targeted easement program will provide an important mix of habitats that will only increase the habitat value of the Refuge System.

Conservation easements add very little to operations and management costs, compared to other kinds of protected lands. In many cases, land acquisition is required to conserve intact and functional natural habitat. The Refuge System is responsible for safeguarding population levels of a range of species, including many that require specific habitat conditions, such as beaches for sea turtles and isolated springs for endemic desert fish. Other species require multiple habitat types during their life cycle. By acquiring critical habitat areas and linking conserved lands, the Refuge System enhances the integrity of the System and strengthens our network of habitat to give wildlife space and time to respond to changes, whether from climate or changing land use patterns.

The Refuge Association calls on Congress to fund LWCF at \$900 million per year, with \$150 million provided in fiscal year 2020 to the USFWS, including the projects enumerated at the beginning of this statement and those advocated by Refuge Friends.

COMMITMENT TO REFUGE COMMUNITIES—REFUGE FUND

The Refuge System uses net income derived from permits and timber harvests to make payments to local communities to offset property tax revenue lost when the federally-acquired lands are removed from local tax rolls. The System relies on congressional appropriations to the Refuge Fund to compensate for the shortfall between revenues and tax replacement obligations. However, declining revenues and

lack of appropriations have resulted in the Service paying less than 50 percent of its tax-offset obligations since 2001. Reduced funding threatens the partnerships that are so important for successful conservation, and the negative impact on local communities is felt even more starkly in difficult economic times.

We also ask that this subcommittee consider converting or rolling the Refuge Fund into the PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program. Some refuge lands are included in PILT and others are included in the Refuge Fund. One funding mechanism for all refuge lands makes sense and would streamline the process of returning funds to local communities.

The Refuge Association requests \$50 million for the Refuge Fund. We also call for a review of the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act of 1935 as amended, and consideration of conversion to a Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program to be consistent with other Federal land management agencies and to provide Refuge communities with more equitable payments.

PARTNERSHIPS—PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM (PARTNERS PROGRAM)

With 75 percent of all fish and wildlife species dependent upon private lands for their survival, the Partners Program is one of the most powerful tools for protecting wildlife where it lives. By building effective partnerships between public agencies and private landowners to conserve America's expansive working landscapes, the Partners Program has implemented nearly 29,000 restoration projects in the past 25 years, restoring over one million acres of wetlands, three million acres of uplands, and 11,000 miles of streams. The Partners Program leverages Federal dollars, generating nearly \$16 in economic return for every \$1 appropriated for projects.

The Refuge Association and the landowner-led Partners for Conservation request \$75 million for fiscal year 2020. Such a funding level would result in an additional \$400 million worth of conservation across the Nation.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE GRANT PROGRAMS

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), and the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (SWG) have been incredibly beneficial for national wildlife refuges.

- The NAWCA program delivers an average 3:1 match for all Federal standard and small grants, and has restored wetlands on wildlife refuges across the Nation. The Refuge Association fully supports a return to this program's high water mark of \$47.6 million.
- The SWG program provides funding to State wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife habitat for both hunted and non-hunted species. This funding is critical for research, wildlife surveys, species restoration, and habitat management on State lands, which all contribute to a system of healthy Federal and State lands. The States are essential partners to the Refuge System, and we support funding for this program of \$75 million.
- The NMBCA program protects neotropical bird species across the Americas, with \$66 million in Federal grants having been matched by \$250 million in partner funds. As wonderful as refuge lands are, wildlife conservation must also take place on State and private lands, as well as in other countries, particularly for migratory species. We support fiscal year 2020 funding at \$6 million for the NMBCA.

We believe that with sound conservation policy, increased funding, and the power of more than 40,000 dedicated volunteers, the Refuge System can fulfill its mission to provide wildlife dependent recreation for Americans and protect the habitat for more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species and more than 1,000 species of fish.

We look forward to working with Congress to accomplish this goal and appreciate your consideration of our requests. Please let me know if you have any questions.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

The Native Village of Eyak makes the following requests and comments on the fiscal year 2020 Indian programs appropriations:

- Bridge and Road Repair*: Support the Tribe's efforts to repair the 36-Mile Bridge and protect Copper River salmon runs
- Section 105(1) Leases*: Identify sufficient funding for healthcare facility leases under Section 105(1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA).

- Contract Support Cost Funding*: Continue to fund Contract Support Costs at 100 percent.
- Advance Appropriations for IHS*: Place IHS funding on an advance appropriations basis.
- Subsidies for Telecommunications Connectivity*: Continue to support Tribal telecommunications subsidies.
- Tribal Courts*: Fully fund BIA 638 compacts supporting Tribal courts.
- Climate Change*: Support the Tribe's efforts with grants to fund research to respond to climate change threats to the Tribe.

INTRODUCTION

The Native Village of Eyak is a federally recognized Tribal government located in Cordova, Alaska, on the southeast shores of Prince William Sound in the North Gulf Coast. The Tribe is a co-signer to the Alaska Tribal Health Compact with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and operates a wide range of healthcare programs, including primary care services and behavioral health. The Tribe also has a self-governance compact under the ISDEAA with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Native Village of Eyak focuses on self-determination and self-governance as a means of improving the lives and health of our Tribal citizens. We are not only responsible for providing quality, available healthcare services, but also for promoting opportunities and partnerships for our citizens, protecting our traditional land and natural resources, and for strengthening our culture.

BRIDGE AND ROAD REPAIR

In 2011, erosion destroyed a portion of Bridge 339 (the “36 Mile Bridge”), leading to the closure of the Copper River Highway which connects the communities in which our members live. The situation continues to decline, and a total failure of the bridge would be detrimental to the Copper River red and king salmon runs and to the water quality of the Copper River, which is of great significance to the Tribe. The repairs to the bridge and road will cost tens of millions of dollars, and we have been investigating our options to contribute to the repair. One option is a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grants. We understand that the BUILD program does not fall under this subcommittee's jurisdiction, but we appreciate your support in this and any other funding sources to help us reconnect our community and protect the Copper River.

SECTION 105(L) LEASES

Like many other Tribes, Eyak relies on section 105(l) leases to address our chronically underfunded facilities operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. We are gratified that IHS has been funding Section 105(l) leases for Tribal health clinics, as it was required to do by the Federal courts in the 2016 Federal court decision in *Maniilaq v. Burwell*, which held that section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides an entitlement to full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. We appreciate your supplemental appropriations in fiscal year 2019 to cover these costs, and we ask that funding continue to be made available for these important leases. This Committee has invited IHS to submit a report on the budget impact of meeting its responsibility. We stand with other Tribes to oppose any appropriations rider, such as those included in the administration's budget proposals for fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019, which would allow IHS to avoid its responsibility to compensate Tribes fully for these costs. We ask that Congress again decline to include such a provision in the fiscal year 2020 IHS appropriation.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COST FUNDING

We appreciate the successful efforts of the House and Senate Interior appropriations subcommittees over the past several years supporting the full payment of Contract Support Costs (CSC) by both the IHS and the BIA. We are also very pleased that the administration has continued to request that CSC be maintained as a separate appropriations account in IHS and in BIA, and with an indefinite funding of “such sums as may be necessary”. The full payment of CSC has been crucial to the strengthening of Tribal governments' ability to successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities as sovereign governments.

ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR IHS

We are appreciative of the increased attention to the issue of advance appropriations for the IHS as evidenced by the legislation introduced by Ranking Member Udall and in the House by Representative Don Young and Interior Appropriations

Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce. The bills differ somewhat and address advance appropriations for IHS (placing it on the same schedule as veterans healthcare) and programs in the BIA and BIE/Predictability in our funding is very important for us as we endeavor to meet the healthcare needs of our community. As you know, when IHS funding is subject to a Continuing Resolution, as it has been over many years, Tribal healthcare providers like us receive only a portion of funding at a time, making it particularly difficult to implement long-range planning and to effectively use and leverage limited resources. Under advance appropriations, we would know our budget a year in advance which would resolve our budget uncertainty. The IHS budget should be treated the same way as VA health programs.

SUBSIDIES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIVITY

Eyak understands that the subcommittees do not directly control funding subsidies under the Federal Communications Commission and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Telecommunications Subsidies. But, as you know, Internet connectivity is critical to providing healthcare services to our remote villages. Last year you heard from us and other Tribes regarding the cap on Universal Service Rural Health Care funds. We appreciate your support in eliminating the cap last year, and efforts to stabilize the Universal Service Fund Rural Health Care program and make sure that our telehealth obligations to our community members remain fully funded.

TRIBAL COURTS

As Tribes become partners within the corrections and court system in the State of Alaska, we have a need for more funding to adequately staff Tribal Courts and run optimal programs. We appreciate that Congress rejected the administration's proposal to zero out Tribal 280 Court funds for fiscal year 2019, maintaining the \$13 million level enacted in fiscal year 2018. Specifically, we would like a sustainable amount of Tribal Court funds to be recurring rather than one time funds that are applied for each year.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Eyak continues to experience weather and climate change. Rivers and lakes that used to freeze all winter freeze minimally or even stay open. Eyak is used to receiving 180 inches of rain on average per year and about 6 feet of snow annually. This rain and snowfall has decreased dramatically, which poses dangers to local hydro-power, commercial fishing and the ability to have adequate drinking water. Increases in Natural Resources funding would allow our Tribe to implement research projects to study these changes and how they impact our natural lifestyle and determine how to respond. Respectfully,

[This statement was submitted by Darrel Olsen, Tribal Council Chairman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE

The Natural Science Collections Alliance appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the Smithsonian Institution and the Department of the Interior. We encourage Congress to make new investments that address agency backlogs in the preservation and curation of scientific and cultural collections within the Department of the Interior and the Smithsonian Institution. We request that Congress provide new funding to the National Museum of Natural History to correct for it being flat funded the past 2 years. We further request that Congress restore the \$1.6 million in funding for the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Survey Unit housed at the Smithsonian Institution.

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a non-profit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our membership consists of institutions that are part of an international network of museums, botanical gardens, herbaria, universities, and other institutions that contain natural science collections and use them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

Scientific collections, and the collections professionals and scientists who make, care for, and study these resources, are a vital component of our Nation's research infrastructure. Whether held at a museum, government managed laboratory or archive, or in a university science department, these scientific resources consist of data (for example, genetic, tissue, organism, and environmental) that are a unique and irreplaceable foundation from which scientists are studying and explaining past

and present life on earth. Research results improve human health, enhance food security, and provide monitoring for responses to environmental change and species conservation.

The institutions that care for scientific collections are important research centers that enable other scientists to study the basic data of life; conduct biological, geological, anthropological, and environmental research; and integrate research findings from across these diverse disciplines. Their professional staff members train future generations with the tools and expertise required to move science forward. In-house institutional staff expertise is vital to the development and deployment of this critical research infrastructure.

According to the Federal Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections, “scientific collections are essential to supporting agency missions and are thus vital to supporting the global research enterprise.” Preservation of specimens and the strategic growth of these collections are in the best interest of science and the best interest of taxpayers. Existing scientific collections that are properly cared for and accessible are a critical component of the U.S. science infrastructure and are readily integrated into new research on significant questions. Specimens that were collected decades or centuries ago are now routinely used in research in diverse fields related to genomics, human health, biodiversity sciences, informatics, environmental quality, and agriculture.

The Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) is a valuable Federal partner in the curation and research on scientific specimens. The scientific experts at the NMNH care for 140 million specimens and ensure the strategic growth of this internationally recognized scientific research institution. To increase the availability of these scientific resources to researchers, educators, other Federal agencies, and the public, NMNH is working on a multi-year effort to digitize its collections. That effort will substantially increase the scientific uses of these collections.

The National Museum of Natural History has also been working to strengthen curatorial and research staffing and to backfill positions left open by retirements and budget constraints. The current staffing level is insufficient to provide optimal care for the collections. Future curatorial and collections management staffing levels may be further jeopardized given funding cuts at science agencies, such as the USGS, that support staff positions at the National Museum of Natural History.

Interior is an important caretaker of museum collections as well; the Department has an estimated 146 million items, comparable in size only to the Smithsonian Institution. Although many of the department’s collections are located in bureau facilities, numerous artifacts, and specimens are also housed by non-governmental facilities, such as museums and universities.

In addition, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) furthers the preservation, inventory, and digitization of geological scientific collections, such as rock and ice cores, fossils, and samples of oil, gas, and water. The National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation program helps States with collections management, improves accessibility of collections data, and expands digitization of specimens to ensure their broader use. One example of the returns from this program is the potash mineral deposit discovered in Michigan that is valued at an estimated \$65 billion. Rock samples from Michigan were entered into a national database, where private companies discovered the deposit’s existence and are now assessing the potential for mining. USGS also supports the documentation and conservation of native pollinators through its Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab.

The Biological Survey Unit consists of USGS scientists stationed at the National Museum of Natural History, where they curate and conduct research on USGS-specimens of fish, reptiles, birds and mammals that are curated at the NMNH. USGS has more than a million specimens of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles that are housed at the Smithsonian. This arrangement goes back to 1889, but has been proposed for elimination by the administration. This is irresponsible. These specimens, data and the research they enable are required to inform Department of the Interior land and natural resource management decisions, and often also support decisionmaking by State and Tribal governments. We urge Congress to fund this valuable program at \$1.6 million and to direct the USGS to sustain this effort.

The Bureau of Land Management has a large backlog of cultural resources to inventory on public lands. Currently, only 10 percent of public lands have been assessed for heritage resources. Such assessments need to be conducted before unique resources are lost to looting, vandalism, fire, or environmental change.

The National Park Service must continue its investments in scientific collections, including cataloging millions of museum objects and connecting those databases to national and global data portals. The National Park Service curates a wide range

of specimens and artifacts, from historical and cultural items to preserved tissues from protected species and living microorganisms collected in our National Parks. Several parks have made progress on addressing planning, environmental, storage, security, and fire protection deficiencies in museum collections, but much work remains. The President's budget request would undo past progress, with the percentage of museum collections in 'good' condition decreasing from 75 percent in fiscal year 2014 to 69 percent by the end of fiscal year 2019.

Conclusion

Scientific collections are critical infrastructure for our Nation's research enterprise and a national treasure. Research specimens connect us to the past, are used to solve current problems, and are helping to predict threats to human health, methods for ensuring food security, and the impact of future environmental changes. Sustained investments in scientific collections are in our national interest.

The budget for NMNH has remained flat over the past 2 years. We urge Congress to provide NMNH with at least \$53 million in fiscal year 2020 to allow the museum to undertake critical collections care, make needed technology upgrades, and conduct cutting edge research. Please support adequate funding for the Department of the Interior's Capital Working Fund, as well as programs within Interior bureaus, such as the Biological Survey Unit, that support the preservation and use of scientific collections—a truly irreplaceable resource.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

[This statement was submitted by John Bates, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit recommendations for fiscal year 2020 appropriations. The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters upon which all life depends.

As we enter the fiscal year 2020 budget cycle and another year of a challenging fiscal environment, the Conservancy wishes to thank this subcommittee for the final fiscal year 2019 funding levels for conservation programs. Our budget recommendations this year reflect a balanced approach with funding levels consistent with fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 funding levels. Of particular note, we wish to work with this subcommittee and the authorizing Committees on identifying a permanent funding solution for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We strongly support the emphasis on funding for sage grouse conservation and urge Congress to continue support for ongoing sage grouse conservation efforts. We also support funding practical, innovative climate solutions to create an energy future that is cleaner, more secure and gives consumers more energy choices. Investing in nature brings strong returns for our security, the economy and our communities and families. The Conservancy is focused on supporting programs and investments that ensure economic and environmental benefits are enhanced today and made sustainable for tomorrow.

The Conservancy would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee for its long-standing support of the fire funding fix in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill passed last year. The passage of this much-needed funding solution means that dollars appropriated by this committee to the fire management accounts of both the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior (DOI) can be used for their intended purposes and not be drained to fight catastrophic wildfires in upcoming fire seasons. Our forest management funding requests seek to reinvest savings resulting from a fire fix and would reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health and resilience.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).—The fiscal year 2019 Omnibus dedicated \$435 million in discretionary appropriations for LWCF. The Fund has strong bipartisan support and the Conservancy appreciates Congress's commitment to funding important on-the-ground conservation and recreation projects. The Conservancy supports \$600 million in discretionary appropriations for LWCF for fiscal year 2020 and looks forward to working with Congress to find a permanent funding solution for LWCF.

Forest Legacy.—The Conservancy support \$100 million for the Forest Legacy Program.

Endangered Species.—The Conservancy supports continuing funding of at least \$53 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund consistent with fiscal year 2019 levels. This funding provides critical matching grants to States and territories

for conservation and species recovery efforts on non-Federal lands. Further, we request your continued support for Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) funding, specifically HCP Land Acquisition Grants. The demand for HCP acquisition grants has significantly outpaced available resources in recent years.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants.—The Conservancy supports the fiscal year 2019 Omnibus funding level of \$64.5 million for this program. Strong Federal investments are essential to ensure strategic actions are undertaken by State, Tribal and Federal agencies and the conservation community to conserve wildlife populations and their habitats and to prevent species from being listed as threatened or endangered.

Wildlife Conservation Programs.—The variety of wildlife conservation programs conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) continue a long and successful tradition of supporting collaborative conservation in the United States and internationally. We urge the Committee to continue funding such established and successful programs as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, FWS Migratory Bird Management Program and the FWS Coastal Program at no less than fiscal year 2019 Omnibus funding levels. We support, at a minimum, sustained funding for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the Cooperative Landscape Conservation and Adaptive Science programs. The latter will help support DOI in addressing large scale conservation challenges across all ownerships, supporting collaborative problem solving for some of our Nation's most challenging conservation issues. We also request strong funding for the National Fish Habitat Initiative.

International Programs.—The international conservation programs appropriated annually within the Department of Interior are relatively small but are effective and widely respected. They encompass the FWS Multinational Species Conservation Funds, the FWS Wildlife Without Borders regional and global programs, and the U.S. National Park Service's International Program. We are requesting modest increases over fiscal year 2019 funding levels for these programs.

National Wildlife Refuge System.—The Conservancy supports stronger funding for the Refuge System's Operations and Maintenance accounts. Found in every U.S. State and territory, national wildlife refuges conserve a diversity of America's environmentally sensitive and economically vital ecosystems, including oceans, coasts, wetlands, deserts, tundra, prairie, and forests. The Conservancy requests \$586 million for fiscal year 2020. This represents the funding necessary to maintain management capabilities for the Refuge System.

Hazardous Fuels and Restoration.—Strategic, proactive hazardous fuels and restoration treatments have proven safer and more cost-effective in reducing risks to communities and forests by removing overgrown brush and trees, leaving forests in a more natural condition resilient to wildfires. The Conservancy recommends investing \$500 million in the USDA Forest Service's Hazardous Fuels program and \$210 million in the DOI's Fuels Management program, in addition to instructions for allocating funds to priority landscapes in both WUI and wildland settings. We also support increasing the CFLR program to \$80 million to allow for new projects, Vegetation & Watershed Management to \$210 million (carving out \$20 million for ecological reforestation) and re-instating the Legacy Roads and Trails program at \$50 million. Additionally, we request this Committee provide funding to establish the new Watersource Protection program, enacted in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Research and Joint Fire Science.—The USDA Forest Service's Forest and Rangeland Research program offers the scientific bases for policies that improve the health and quality of urban and rural communities. This program is vital for the long-term health and utility of our American forests and rivers. The Conservancy requests funding research at \$315 million. We ask to also include \$8 million for each the USDA Forest Service and DOI's Joint Fire Science programs, which have proven great success in supporting practical science that reduces fire risk and enhances economic, ecological and social outcomes nationwide.

Sage Grouse Conservation.—The Conservancy requests continued investments to provide ongoing efforts to restore and conserve sagebrush habitat and the Greater Sage-grouse across Federal, State, Tribal and private lands. These resources are needed to implement on-the-ground projects and monitor habitat treatments, address rangeland fire and broader wildland fire prevention, suppression and restoration efforts, and facilitate the partnership and science necessary for effective conservation. Importantly, we ask that you remove language in Sec. 120 of the fiscal year 2019 Conference Report that bars the Service from proposing a rule to list the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This language undercuts good faith conservation efforts by removing the critical backstop of a listing should conditions on the ground warrant such a step. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

is facing perhaps the single most challenging effort in its history in conserving key sagebrush habitat, addressing identified threats to sage-grouse and promoting sustainable economic development across some 165 million acres in coordination with State and local managers and private land owners. We hope that all of our work together can avoid the need to list the sage grouse in the future.

BLM Land Management and Renewable Energy Development.—The Conservancy supports smart planning and management of public lands through implementation of Rapid Ecoregional Assessments, Resource Management Planning improvements, Regional Mitigation Planning, coordination with LCCs, and the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Strategy. Many BLM programs contribute to these cross-cutting initiatives including: National Landscape Conservation System (\$39.8 million); Resource Management Planning program (\$63.125 million); and the new Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management budget line (\$128.846 million with \$21.587 allocated to threatened and endangered species). Additionally, the Conservancy supports continued funding for BLM's renewable energy development program at the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus level of \$28.3 million. Collectively, these efforts will help BLM manage its lands efficiently and effectively for energy development, species and habitat conservation, recreation, and other uses to maximize the public benefit from these lands.

Environmental Protection Agency's Geographic Programs.—EPA's geographic programs, including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, Long Island Sound, and Gulf of Mexico programs, make a significant contribution to protecting habitat and water quality in the large landscapes where they work. These programs have a proven record of supporting the States' voluntary restoration efforts, and the Conservancy urges the Committee to continue the strong funding for these programs it allocated in fiscal year 2019.

Colorado River Basin Recovery Programs.—The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program take a balanced approach to recovering four endangered fish species in the Colorado River basin. The Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs are highly successful collaborative conservation partnerships involving the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as Indian Tribes, Federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests. These programs provide critically important ESA compliance for over 2,450 Federal, Tribal, State, and private water projects across the Upper Colorado River Basin. Through these efforts, water use and development have continued in growing Western communities in full compliance with the ESA, State water and wildlife laws, and interstate compacts. Implementation of the ESA has been greatly streamlined for Federal agencies, Tribes and water users. The Conservancy supports robust funding at FWS for the Colorado River Basin recovery programs, including recovery funds for both the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, as well as fish hatchery needs associated with the recovery plans.

National Streamflow Network.—The National Streamflow Network provides continuous streamflow information at over 8,200 locations across the country and is managed within the U.S. Geological Survey's Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program. Water managers, scientists, and other decisions makers, including within the Conservancy, rely on data from the National Streamflow Network to plan for floods, droughts, and other extreme events; design infrastructure, including the operation of Federal reservoirs; facilitate energy generation; protect aquatic species and restore habitat; and manage Federal lands. The Conservancy supports funding in fiscal year 2020 to fully implement the National Streamflow Network.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program.—Subtitle C of Title V of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 provides authority for low-cost credit that can leverage private investment for water infrastructure. The criteria include whether a project protects against extreme weather events or helps maintain the environment. The Conservancy appreciates the strong funding the Committee allocated to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program in fiscal year 2019 and urges continued support for it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit The Nature Conservancy's recommendations for the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

[This statement was submitted by Kameron Onley, Director of U.S. Government Relations.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NEZ PERCE TRIBE

Honorable Chairwoman and Members of the subcommittee, the Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) provides the following recommendations as the Committee evaluates and prioritizes fiscal year 2020 appropriations, in relation to the needs of Tribal nations, for the Indian Health Service (IHS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Forest Service (FS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Tribe wants to acknowledge and thank this subcommittee for its efforts to understand the needs of Indian Country and advocate for increased appropriations to the many programs in its jurisdiction that benefit the citizens, the Tribal governments, and all members of our communities. We are deeply grateful that the many funding increases to Tribal programs across the final fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act will build on increases Congress provided in fiscal year 2017 and in fiscal year 2018.

Like any government, the Tribe performs a wide array of work and provides a multitude of services to its Tribal membership as well as the community at large. The Tribe has a health clinic; a Tribal police force; a social services department; and a comprehensive natural resources program that does work related to forestry, wildlife management, land services and land management, habitat restoration, air quality and smoke management, water quality and sewer service. The Tribe also operates one of the largest fisheries departments of any Tribe in the nation working on the recovery of listed species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Each of these programs is necessary and vital for the Tribe as a sovereign nation that preserves and protects the Treaty rights of the Nez Perce People and provides day-to-day governmental services to our members and surrounding communities.

The Tribe has long been a proponent of self-determination for Tribes and believes our primary obligation is to protect the Treaty-reserved rights of the Tribe and our members. All of the Tribe's work is guided by this principle. The Tribe works extensively with many Federal agencies and proper funding for those agencies and their work with, for, and through Tribes is of vital importance. To accomplish this work, the U.S. must affirm its trust responsibility to Indian Tribes by properly funding programs. The Tribe supports the recent report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, *Broken Promises*, as well as the National Congress of American Indians' publication of Indian Country's fiscal year 2020 budget request, *Winds of Change*.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Tribe appreciates the \$3.08 billion in overall funding for the BIA and Bureau of Indian Education in fiscal year 2019 and requests that this \$17.5 million increase be maintained in fiscal year 2020. The Tribe also supports the indefinite appropriation for contract support costs and believes that at least the \$247 million appropriated in fiscal year 2019 should be provided in fiscal year 2020. These costs should also be reclassified from discretionary to mandatory.

In relation to the BIA Public Safety and Justice (PS&J) account, the Tribe advocates for maintaining at least the \$411.5 million in funding for law enforcement that was enacted for that account in fiscal year 2019. The Nez Perce Reservation spans 1,200 square miles, covering five counties, and has a mixture of Tribal and non-Tribal residents. The Tribe provides a full-service law and justice program. The Tribe has a fully trained and staffed police force, a fully staffed Tribal court, a prosecutor, a public defender, and other personnel that perform related administrative functions. The Tribe received \$953,214 in base funding from PS&J in fiscal year 2017. Currently, the Tribe contributes \$1,974,530 annually to cover the shortfall in BIA funding for the Tribe's law enforcement, \$527,984 for judicial services/probation, \$390,832 for prosecutorial services, \$256,636 for public defender services, and \$300,000 for prisoner boarding. This supplemental funding of nearly \$3.5 million is derived from Tribal taxes on goods and fuel and Tribal gaming revenues that would otherwise be used for Tribal governmental services. Funding for these programs needs to be maintained and ultimately increased to account for shortfalls in funding the Tribe has to absorb in order to continue the operation of these important services on the Reservation.

The Tribe requests total funding of \$35 million be provided for scholarships and adult education and special higher education scholarships and that funding for the Johnson O'Malley program be substantially increased from the \$14.9 million provided in fiscal year 2019 to the level of \$42 million that NCAI recommends. Johnson O'Malley program funding has remained static for many years resulting in the decrease of per student funding. The Tribe also supports \$2.5 million, if not an increase, in funding for Tribal education departments along with increases for Tribal colleges and universities that support institutions like Northwest Indian College which operates a satellite campus on the Nez Perce Reservation.

The Tribe also relies on the BIA for funding for our work related to endangered species and protection of the Tribe's Treaty resources, including Chinook and steelhead salmon. The funding is used to supplement research efforts of the Tribe relative to other sensitive species. The Tribe recommends a \$1 million increase for the BIA Endangered Species Program. This account provides Tribes with technical and financial assistance to protect endangered species on trust lands. Also, the Tribe recommends an increase of \$2.8 million for BIA Natural Resource Tribal Priority Allocations which will help increase Tribal land and management capabilities.

In addition, the funding provided under the BIA Rights Protection Implementation account is critical to support the exercise of treaty-reserved, off-reservation hunting and fishing for Tribes. The Tribe supports, at a minimum, funding of \$41.3 million, the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. BIA single-line dollars provide the foundation for core program administration and treaty rights protection activities, such as harvest monitoring. These efforts are central to the Tribe's fisheries management responsibilities as established by the Nez Perce Treaties of 1855 and 1863 and further delineated in court decisions regarding implementation of hunting and fishing Treaty rights. It is important to understand that this funding is used for job creation.

The Tribe also supports \$15.3 million in funding for the BIA Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The Tribe, through our fisheries programs, has invested a significant amount of personnel and resources into the restoration of salmon. The States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, as well as sports fisheries, directly benefit from this work. These programs have been successful with funding under the Tribal Management and Development Program which is critical for the Tribe's management of fish and wildlife. We recommend funding in the amount of \$17 million for the Tribal Management and Development Program, a \$5.3 million increase from fiscal year 2019.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The Tribe operates Nimiipuu Health, a healthcare clinic on the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai, Idaho, and its satellite facility located 65 miles away in Kamiah, Idaho. Nimiipuu Health provides services to approximately 4,000 patients each year. Annually, this computes to 40,000 medical provider visits which does not include pharmacy or laboratory visits. Our expenditure total of Federal funds in fiscal year 2018 was \$16,403,788.97, an increase of \$1.1 million from that in fiscal year 2017. Purchased/Referred Care (P/RC) costs for outpatient services in fiscal year 2018 totaled \$4,340,402.73, an increase of \$600,000 from fiscal year 2017.

For fiscal year 2020, the Tribe recommends, at a minimum, continuing the \$5.8 billion in funding enacted for IHS in fiscal year 2019. This funding amount will allow Nez Perce and other Tribes to pay costs, maintain current services, and allows programs and facilities to keep up with medical and non-medical inflation and population growth. The Tribe appreciates the \$2.1 million increase in funding for P/RC provided in fiscal year 2019 and recommends that this \$964.8 million allocation be preserved or increased by up to \$20 million to continue to meet the P/RC spending needs of Tribal health facilities.

The Tribe supports \$822.2 million for contract support costs in fiscal year 2020 and the inclusion of bill language to classify this appropriation as indefinite so that, if needed, additional funds may be provided as they were in fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019. The Tribe appreciates that Congress chose to fully fund contract support costs in fiscal year 2019—as it should, per any agreement. In addition, the Tribe supports reclassifying contract support costs for the BIA and IHS as mandatory and not discretionary. However, this change in funding should not be accomplished or be off-set by reducing other funding for these agencies that would adversely affect services or programs. This funding should not be reduced by excessive set-asides for administration. Finally, the Tribe recommends permanent, mandatory funding of the Special Diabetes Program at no less than \$150 million per fiscal year.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Tribe relies heavily on funding sources within the FWS and the FS. First, the operations of Kooskia National Fish Hatchery are funded by FWS. The Tribe manages the hatchery pursuant to the terms of the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 (Act). FWS requires full funding for the operations of this important facility to ensure the U.S. meets its obligations under the Act. Second, the FWS-administered State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program is an important and cost-effective expenditure for the government and is one of the few sources of funds Tribes can tap into for wildlife research. Since 2005, we have received five such grants funding work on diverse issues such as gray wolf monitoring, bighorn sheep research, rare

plant conservation, and Condor habitat research. Continued funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program will allow recipient Tribes to build capacity and maintain involvement in key conservation issues. The Tribe strongly urges this subcommittee to increase funding for these competitive grants to \$66 million and increase the Tribal share from \$4.2 million to \$6.5 million.

The Nez Perce Reservation and its usual and accustomed areas are rich in natural resources and encompass eleven national forests. The Tribe works closely with each forest's administration to properly manage its resources on behalf of the Tribe. These range from protecting and properly managing the products of the forest to providing habitat for the vast wildlife in each one such as elk, deer, bighorn sheep and wolves. Increased funding is necessary so that the FS can meet these trust obligations and continue to work with Tribes on a government-to-government basis without being hampered by lack of funding to fill positions. With regard to management of bighorn sheep, the Tribe would note the House Subcommittee for Interior appropriations has included report language to both the BLM and FS over the last several years that encourages research related to disease transmission between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep. The Tribe encourages this type of research mandate be restricted to laboratory settings and not be allowed to occur in the field where impact and harm would be more difficult to control. The bighorn sheep populations within the Tribe's aboriginal territories are too fragile and too important to be put at risk.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Tribe works closely with EPA on a large number of programs that are essential to the health and safety of the 18,000 Tribal and non-Tribal citizens residing within the Nez Perce Reservation and that also protect the Treaty-reserved resources of the Tribe that the U.S. has a trust obligation to preserve. These programs include: the Clean Water Act 106 Program; the Clean Water Act 319 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Prevention Program; the Indian General Assistance Program; the Tribal Brownfields Response Program; the Underground Storage Tank Program; the Delegation of Nez Perce Federal Implementation Plan; the Clean Air Act 103 Grant-Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Project; and the EPA Region 10 Pesticide Circuit Rider Program. The Tribe currently implements over \$1.5 million in programmatic funding under these programs. The Tribe recommends the Indian General Assistance Program be increased from \$65.5 million to \$75 million, the Tribal allocation under the Clean Water Act 106 program be increased by 20 percent, \$13 million for Tribal Air Quality Management, \$87 million for the Brownfields Program and \$13 million be provided in lieu of the percent cap on Tribal funding for NPS pollutant control.

The Tribe requests the subcommittee fund the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program, authorized under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016, at no less than the \$1 million provided to EPA in fiscal year 2019 but recommends that number be substantially increased.

As you can see, the Tribe does a tremendous amount of work in a variety of areas. It is important that the U.S. continue to fund this work and uphold and honor its trust obligations to tribes. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Honorable Members of the subcommittee, my name is Lorraine Loomis and I am Chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC). The NWIFC is comprised of the 20 Tribes in western Washington that are party to *United States v. Washington*, which upheld the Tribes' treaty-reserved right to harvest and manage natural resources on and off-reservation, including salmon and shellfish. On behalf of the NWIFC, we are providing testimony for the record on our natural resources management and environmental program funding requests for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fiscal year 2020 appropriations. These programs support Tribes to carry out their natural resource management responsibilities including the management of Pacific salmon fisheries, which contribute to a robust natural resource-based economy and the continued exercise of Tribal treaty rights.

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

Bureau of Indian Affairs

- Provide \$57.105 million for Rights Protection Implementation (collective request)
- Provide \$17.146 million for Western Washington Fisheries Management
- Provide \$3.423 million for Washington State Timber-Fish-Wildlife
- Provide \$5.96 million for U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Provide \$2.4 million for Salmon Marking
- Provide \$4.5 million for Evaluation and Research Activities—Climate
- Provide \$15.0 million for Fish, Wildlife & Parks Projects (non-TPA)
- Provide \$830,000 for the Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program within the Tribal Management/Development Program Subactivity
- Fully Fund Contract Support Costs
- Provide \$2.0 million for Western Washington Treaty Tribes' Wildlife Management
- Provide \$30.355 million for Tribal Climate Resilience

Fish & Wildlife Service

- Provide \$8.0 million for Tribal Wildlife Grants

Environmental Protection Agency

- Provide \$96.4 million for Tribal General Assistance Program
- Provide \$50.0 million for Puget Sound Geographic Program

Multiple Agency Request

- Provide \$1.2 million for an Automatic Salmon Fin Clipping and Tagging Trailer

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUESTS

Bureau of Indian Affairs

- Provide \$57.105 million for BIA Rights Protection Implementation Subactivity
The 41 Tribes in the Great Lakes and Pacific Northwest with similar treaty-reserved rights have collectively identified that no less than \$52.0 million for Rights Protection Implementation (RPI) is necessary to support essential Tribal treaty-reserved resource management. The NWIFC has also identified an additional need of \$4.5 million for RPI Climate Change plus increases to meet new Pacific Salmon Treaty commitments, which brings our total request for RPI to \$57.105 million; \$16.832 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$40.273 million. A summary of the accounts of interest to us within RPI are further identified below. However, please note that a breakdown of these accounts for fiscal year 2019 is not provided in the Indian Affairs Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Justification.

- Provide \$17.146 million for BIA Western Washington Fisheries Management

We respectfully request \$17.146 million; an increase of \$6.47 million over the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of \$10.676 million. Funding for this program supports the Tribes to co-manage their treaty-reserved resources with the State of Washington, and to continue to meet court mandates and legal responsibilities. For example, funding supports harvest planning, population assessments, data gathering for finfish, shellfish, groundfish, and other natural resource management needs.

- Provide \$3.423 million for BIA Washington State Timber-Fish-Wildlife (TFW)

We respectfully request \$3.423 million, which would maintain the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. Funding for this program is provided to improve forest practices on State and private lands, while providing protection for fish, wildlife and water quality. This funding supports the Tribes' participation in the Timber, Fish and Wildlife Agreement—a collaborative intergovernmental and stakeholder process between the State, industry and Tribes.

- Provide \$5.96 million for BIA U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty

We respectfully request \$5.96 million; an increase of \$605,000 over the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of \$5.355 million to implement the newly revised Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) agreement. The Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 charges the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) with the responsibility to implement the bilateral treaty with Canada. Tribes assist the U.S. Federal Government in meeting its obligations to implement the treaty by participating in fisheries management exercises including cooperative re-

search and data gathering activities. This funding supports Tribes' participation in the PSC and the bilateral PST process.

—Provide \$2.4 million for BIA Salmon Marking

We respectfully request \$2.4 million; an increase of \$1.063 million over the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of \$1.337 million. Since 2003, Congress has required that all salmon released from federally funded hatcheries are marked for conservation management purposes and has provided funding to do so. This funding allows Tribes to mark salmon at Tribal hatcheries and to use these marked fish to scientifically monitor salmon populations in western Washington.

—Provide \$4.5 million for BIA Evaluation and Research Activities—Climate

We respectfully request \$4.5 million for Evaluation and Research Activities—Climate for our member Tribes. The BIA did not fund this program in fiscal year 2018, despite many successful Tribal projects and programs in fiscal year 2016 and 2017. Funding for this program will provide Tribes the capacity to identify, respond and adapt to the impacts of our changing climate.

—Provide \$15.0 million for BIA Fish, Wildlife & Parks Projects (Non-TPA) for Hatchery Operations and Maintenance

We respectfully request \$15.0 million for Hatchery Operations and Maintenance within the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Projects account; an increase of \$5.067 million over the \$9.933 million provided for these programs in fiscal year 2018. More specifically, we request \$8.0 million for Hatchery Operations and \$7.0 million for Hatchery Maintenance. This funding is provided to Tribal hatcheries to support the rearing and releasing of salmon and steelhead for harvest by Indian and non-Indian fisheries in the U.S. and Canada. Without hatcheries, Tribes would lose their most basic ceremonial and subsistence fisheries that are central to our Tribal culture. Hatcheries also support economically significant commercial and recreational fisheries and assist with recovering Endangered Species Act-listed salmon stocks.

—Provide \$830,000 for BIA Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program (SSHIAF) within the Tribal Management/Development Program (TMDP)

We respectfully request \$830,000 within the TMDP for SSHIAF; an increase of \$475,000 over the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of \$355,000. SSHIAF is a vital program to the western Washington Tribes because it provides essential environmental data management, analysis, sharing and reporting to support Tribal natural resource management. It also supports our Tribes' ability to participate in watershed resource assessments and salmon recovery work.

—Fully Fund BIA Contract Support Costs

We respectfully request that Congress fully fund Contract Support Costs. We also support the reclassification of Contract Support Costs as mandatory funding. Funding for this function ensures Tribes and Tribal organizations have the capacity to manage Federal programs under self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts.

—Provide \$2.0 million for Western Washington Treaty Tribes' Wildlife Management

We respectfully request \$2.0 million for western Washington treaty Tribes' wildlife management programs from an account within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Trust—Natural Resources Management Activity. The treaty Tribes, as co-managers of the wildlife resource, work cooperatively with the State of Washington and others to manage wildlife. Requested funding will support the development of wildlife management plans, development and enhancement of Tribal hunting codes, the design and implementation of applied research projects, and capacity to participate in State-Tribal co-management forums. These capabilities are necessary to help protect Tribes' treaty-reserved rights and resources.

—Provide \$30.355 million for BIA Tribal Climate Resilience

We respectfully request \$30.355 million; an increase of \$20.399 million over the fiscal year 2019 enacted levels of \$9.956 million. Funding for this program will support Tribes to participate in climate change issues that impact treaty-reserved resources, as well as promote resiliency to change.

Fish & Wildlife Service

—Provide \$8.0 million for FWS Tribal Wildlife Grants

We respectfully request \$8.0 million for the nationwide Tribal Wildlife Grants program; an increase of \$3.791 million over the fiscal year 2019 enacted of \$4.209 million. Funding from this competitive grant program supports the con-

servation of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are culturally or traditionally important to Tribes.

Environmental Protection Agency

—Provide \$96.4 million for EPA Tribal General Assistance Program (GAP)

We respectfully request \$96.4 million; an increase of \$30.924 million over the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$65.476 million. We also respectfully request: (1) accompanying bill or report language that would improve flexibility in the GAP to ensure individual Tribal priorities and implementation activities would be eligible; and (2) \$5.0 million for a regional pilot project that would demonstrate how flexibility to implement individual Tribal priorities through a self-governance model can benefit Tribes, EPA and the environment. The GAP builds Tribal program capacity to begin to address environmental issues, which impact Tribes' health, safety, and treaty-reserved resources.

—Provide \$50.0 million for EPA Puget Sound Geographic Program

We respectfully request \$50.0 million; an increase of \$22.0 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$28.0 million. This Geographic Program provides essential funding that will help protect and restore Puget Sound—an estuary of national significance. Funding for this program is essential for Tribes because it supports our participation in a broad range of Puget Sound recovery work, including, scientific research, resource recovery planning, and policy discussions that affect our treaty rights.

Multiple Agency Request

—Provide \$1.2 million for an Automatic Salmon Fin Clipping and Tagging Trailer

We respectfully request \$1.2 million for an automatic salmon fin clipping and tagging trailer. The NWIFC uses automated trailers to provide effective and efficient centralized services to our 20-member Tribes. Our services help the Tribes meet Federal salmon marking requirements and generate essential data to support fisheries management (coded wire tags). An increasing demand for these important services exceeds our current capacity. An additional automatic trailer is needed to ensure we meet the requirements of salmon marking and tagging at Tribal hatcheries. This request is part of the new Pacific Salmon Treaty agreement but the details regarding which agency or account should fund the request is unknown.

CONCLUSION

We respectfully urge the subcommittee to continue to support our efforts to protect and restore treaty-reserved resources and the communities and economies dependent upon them. We greatly appreciate your attention to our requests and we thank you for your continued commitment to Tribes.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

Greetings Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee. My name is Andy Joseph, Jr., and I serve as Vice Chair on the Colville Business Council, as a Co-Chair of the IHS National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup, and as Chairman of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB). I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the fiscal year 2020 Indian Health Service (IHS) budget.

Established in 1972, the NPAIHB is a Tribal organization established under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), Public Law 93-638, advocating on behalf of the 43 federally-recognized Indian Tribes in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington on specific healthcare issues. NPAIHB operates the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (NWTEC) and a variety of important health programs on behalf of our member Tribes and national programs that serve Indian Country. For 28 years, NPAIHB has conducted an annual detailed analysis of the IHS budget.¹ It is an honor to present you with our recommendations for fiscal year 2020.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 ENACTED LEVEL FUNDING FOR IHS

In fiscal year 2019, IHS received an overall increase of \$162 million or 3.4 percent above fiscal year 2018 enacted level for program and services, not including indefinite appropriation for Contract Support Costs (CSC) of \$104 million. I would like

¹ NPAIHB Resource Library, available at: <http://www.npaihb.org/resource-lib/> (last visited Feb. 26, 2019).

to thank the Senate for its support of the Community Health Representative program, Health Education and Tribal Management Grants in fiscal year 2019. In our annual analysis for fiscal year 2019, we determined that a \$268 million increase was needed above fiscal year 2018 enacted level to cover population growth and medical inflation for current services (not including CSC).² The final appropriated amount for fiscal year 2019 fell short by \$106 million. The IHS budget has not received adequate annual increases, with a few exceptions, to maintain the costs of current services (inflation, population growth, and pay act increases). The consequence of this is that the IHS budget is diminished and IHS and Tribal health programs purchasing power has continually been eroded over the years.

RECOMMENDATION: MAINTAIN CURRENT IHS SERVICES

The fundamental budget principle for Northwest Tribes is that the basic healthcare program must be preserved by Congress. Preserving the IHS base program by funding the current level of health services should be a basic budget principle by Congress. Otherwise, unmet needs will never be addressed. We estimate for fiscal year 2020 that in order to maintain current services a minimum of \$195 million over fiscal year 2019 enacted level is needed to cover medical inflation and population growth. Unfortunately, IHS and Tribal health programs will suffer consequences if IHS appropriations do not include inflation, population growth and pay act increases. For fiscal year 2020, NPAIHB recommends that IHS be funded at least \$195 million to cover population growth and medical inflation to maintain current services with commitment that appropriate program increases be designated for IHS and Tribal health programs and not reprogrammed for other purposes by IHS.³

RECOMMENDATION: FULL FUNDING FOR IHS PHASED IN OVER 12 YEARS

Tribal leaders on the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup (Workgroup), representing all 12 IHS areas, provide recommendations on the IHS budget annually through the IHS Budget Formulation process. As I mentioned above, I serve as a co-Chair of the Workgroup and am the Portland Area representative. The Workgroup provided recommendations for fiscal year 2020 requesting an end to the growing health disparities by fully funding IHS phased in over 12 years.⁴ This recommendation is supported across Indian Country as a recommendation that honors treaty and trust obligations of the United States to provide healthcare to Indian people. Consistent with the Workgroup's recommendation, NPAIHB recommends that IHS be funded at \$7 billion for fiscal year 2020 to implement phased in full funding for IHS.⁵

RECOMMENDATION: ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

The recent partial government shutdown caused undue hardship to AI/AN people in the Northwest—from Federal employees not being able to put food on their tables to reduced patient access to care due to clinics cutting their hours. Some Northwest Tribes were considering closing their clinics due to lack of funding. This is unconscionable treatment of AI/AN people and must not be repeated in the future. For these reasons and in recognition of the trust and treaty obligations, NPAIHB requests support for Advance Appropriations.

RECOMMENDATION: INDEFINITE APPROPRIATION FOR ISDEAA SECTION 105(L) LEASE COSTS

Section 105(l) of ISDEAA requires IHS, upon Tribal request, to enter into a lease for a facility owned or leased by the Tribe or Tribal organization and used to carry out its ISDEAA agreement. As established in the *Maniilaq* case, IHS must compensate the Tribe or Tribal organization fully for its reasonable facility expenses under Section 105(l) of ISDEAA.⁶ IHS's reprogramming of inflation increases to pay the lease costs negatively impacts our IHS and Tribal facilities. IHS/Tribal facilities

²NPAIHB, *Fiscal Year 2019 Indian Health Service Budget: Analysis and Recommendations—28th Annual Report*, <http://www.npaihb.org/resource-lib/> (last visited Feb. 26, 2019).

³RADM Michael D. Weahkee, Letter on decision to reprogram a portion of fiscal year 2018 funding (Sept. 14, 2018), https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/includes/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/2018_Letters/DTLL_DUIOLL_ISDEAA_09142018.pdf.

⁴National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup Recommendation, *Fiscal Year 2020 Summary Recommendations*, https://www.nihb.org/legislative/budget_formulation.php (last visited May 17, 2019).

⁵*Id.*

⁶See *Maniilaq Ass'n v. Burwell*, 170 F. Supp. 3d 243 (D.D.C. 2016).

rely on inflation increases to maintain current services. Unless additional funding is provided in the IHS appropriation, then the additional funds required to fund 105(l) leases will come at the expense of the health of our people with cuts in services for both direct service and self-governance Tribes. NPAIHB recommends that Congress fund ISDEAA Section 105(l) lease costs as an indefinite appropriation.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Oppose Funding Cuts Proposed in President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request. NPAIHB opposes the President's proposed recommendations for several critical programs, including: \$39 million cut to Community Health Representatives (CHRs); elimination of Health Education funding (funded at \$20.5 million in fiscal year 2019); elimination of Tribal Management funding (funded at \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2019); \$2.5 million cut to Urban Indian Health of \$2.5 million; \$14 million cut to the Indian Health Professions (funded at \$57.3 million in fiscal year 2019); cut of \$1 million to Self-Governance; and cut of \$657 thousand to Environmental and Facilities.

Fund Clinical Services-Electronic Health Record System in the amount of \$25 million. NPAIHB recognizes there will need to be a substantial investment in information technology (IT) infrastructure and software in order for IHS to transition to another system. For fiscal year 2020, NPAIHB supports the President's request for \$25 million to fund "Electronic Health Record System" planning, phased-in replacement, and technical assistance of IHS RPMS. NPAIHB also requests that activities be directed by Tribes through ongoing Tribal consultation.

Fund Elimination of HIV and HCV in the amount of \$25 million. It is estimated that there are at least 40,000 AI/AN people, served by IHS, with a current Hepatitis C infection, according to the IHS National Data Warehouse. For fiscal year 2020, we support the President's request for funding to Eliminate HIV and Hepatitis C in the amount of \$25 million as an initial step to phased in funding, estimated at over \$300 million to treat all AI/AN people within the IHS system.

Fund Expansion of Community Health Aide Program for a minimum of \$20 million. In the past few years, NPAIHB has been at the forefront, with Portland Area Tribes, to get Northwest Tribal members trained in Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT) in Alaska and placed in Oregon, Washington and Idaho (this fall). NPAIHB has also been planning for and is in the process of establishing a Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) certification board; creating and implementing an education program for Behavioral Health Aides (BHAs); and implementing a Dental Therapy Education Program in partnership with a local community college, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Seattle Indian Health Board. An IHS interim CHAP policy is currently out for Tribal consultation (closes June 7) and is expected to allow Areas the ability to move forward with CHAP implementation. NPAIHB supports the President's request of \$20 million for CHAP but more funding is needed. NPAIHB does not support the proposed cut to the CHR program to fund expansion of the CHAP program. Both programs should be fully funded.

Increase Dental Health by \$20 million. AI/AN people have a higher prevalence of dental caries and untreated tooth decay in all age groups compared to the general United States population, with many AI/AN children experience high rates of dental caries between the ages of 2 to 5.⁷ For fiscal year 2020, NPAIHB recommends an increase of \$20 million to Dental Services to address the growing oral health needs and dental professional shortage in Indian Country.

Increase Mental Health by \$152.5 million. NPAIHB is particularly concerned about the mental health of our AI/AN children and youth. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for AI/AN adolescents and young adults. AI/AN suicide mortality in this age group (10–29) is 2–3 greater than that for non-Hispanic whites. For fiscal year 2020, NPAIHB recommends \$75 million to expand funding for pilot projects for aftercare services for Native youth discharged from residential substance use treatment. More Youth Residential Treatment Centers and Tribes must be funded to develop approaches to aftercare, recovery, and other support services for Native youth that can be used across other IHS/Tribal facilities, YRTPs and in Tribal communities. An additional \$75 million is needed to expand the Special Behavioral Health Pilot Program for Indians, appropriated \$10 million in fiscal year 2019. However, NPAIHB recommends the option for Tribal shares instead of grant awards. Lastly, \$2.5 million is needed to fund Area Health Boards/Tribal Epidemiology Centers for the provision of technical assistance to Tribes and to collect and evaluate Special Behavioral Health Pilot Program.

⁷ Phipps KR and Ricks TL, The oral health of American Indian and Alaska Native adult dental patients: results of the 2015 IHS oral health survey, Indian Health Service data brief, 2016.

Increase Alcohol and Substance Abuse by \$152.5 million. Alcohol and substance abuse, particularly among our AI/AN children and young adults, continues to be one of the highest priorities identified by Tribal leaders and Health Directors in the Portland Area and across Indian Country. For fiscal year 2020, NPAIHB recommends \$25 million to expand funding for pilot projects for aftercare services for Native youth discharged from residential substance use treatment; \$75 million to expand the Special Behavioral Health Pilot Program for Indians, with an option for Tribal shares; \$2.5 million to fund Area Health Boards/Tribal Epidemiology Centers for the provision of technical assistance to Tribes and to collect and evaluate Special Behavioral Health Pilot Program; and \$50 million to fund critical detoxification and recovery services.

Increase Purchased and Referred Care (PRC) by \$50 million. Without IHS/Tribal hospitals in the Portland Area, Northwest Tribes rely on the PRC program for all specialty and inpatient care. Because of this, the PRC program makes up over one-third of the Portland Area budget and when less than adequate inflation and population growth increases are provided, Portland Area Tribes are forced to cut health services to absorb these mandatory costs. The level funding of PRC in fiscal year 2016 further diminished the purchasing power of Portland Area Tribes. Those IHS areas that have inpatient care can absorb PRC funding shortfalls more easily than PRC dependent areas with their larger size staffing packages and infrastructure. For fiscal year 2020, NPAIHB recommends a program increase of \$50 million for Purchased and Referred Care (PRC).

Increase Indian Health Professions by \$10 million. Given the recruitment and retention issues of healthcare providers in many of our Northwest Tribal communities, NPAIHB passed a resolution supporting an increase for Indian Health Professions to fully fund scholarships for all qualified applicants to the IHS Scholarship Program and to support the Loan Repayment Program to fund all physicians, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, nurses and other direct care practitioners (NPAIHB Resolution 18-03-07). For fiscal year 2020, NPAIHB requests a program increase of \$10 million for Indian Health Professions.

No Increase to New Healthcare Facilities Construction But Increase Small Ambulatory Program (SAP) by \$25 million and Increase Joint Venture Construction Program (JVCP). The 2016 IHS/Tribal Health Care Facilities Needs Assessment Report to Congress stated that the current Priority List will not be complete until 2041 and at the current rate of construction appropriations and the replacement timeline, a new 2016 facility would not be replaced for 400 years. Many Tribes and Tribal organizations have had to assume substantial debt to build or renovate clinics for AI/AN people to receive IHS-funded healthcare. For these reasons, NPAIHB does not support funding for new Health Care Facilities Construction until the current funding mechanism is changed. NPAIHB recommends that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) be instructed to review and issue a report on the IHS Facilities Construction Priority System, including historical and current funding distribution inequities. (NPAIHB/CRIHB Joint Res No. 17-04-12). In addition, for fiscal year 2020, NPAIHB recommends a program increase of \$25 million for the Small Ambulatory Program (SAP) with funding for staffing packages; and increased funding for the Joint Venture Construction Program (JVCP).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide recommendations on the fiscal year 2020 IHS budget. I invite you to visit our Area and look forward to working with the subcommittee on our requests.⁸

PREPARED STATEMENT OF OPERA AMERICA

Madam Chair and distinguished members of the subcommittee, I am grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of OPERA America, its Board of Directors and its more than 2,000 organizational and individual members. We strongly urge the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in the Committee on Appropriations to designate a total of \$167.5 million to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for fiscal year 2020. This testimony and the funding examples described below are intended to highlight the importance of Federal investment in the arts, so critical to sustaining a vibrant cultural community throughout the country.

The NEA is a great investment in the economic growth of every community.

The NEA was established in 1965 with the mission to "strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities

⁸For more information, please contact Laura Platero, NPAIHB, at lplatero@npaihb.org.

for arts participation.” It has continued to meet this mission for over 50 years, recommending more than 2,300 grants in every Congressional District in the country in fiscal year 2018. Sixty-five percent of direct grants went to small (budgets under \$500,000) and medium sized (budgets between \$500,000 and \$2 million) organizations. Additionally, 40 percent of NEA-supported activities took place in high-poverty neighborhoods and 36 percent of NEA grants reached underserved populations, such as people with disabilities and veterans. Between 2012 and 2015, NEA-supported programs reached 24.2 million adults and 3.4 children on average each year through 80,603 live events.

Funding from the NEA continues to support arts organizations and their communities by providing a high return on investment. The ratio of private and other public funds matching every NEA grant dollar is approaching 9:1, generating more than \$500 million in matching supporting.

Before the establishment of the NEA, funding for the arts was mostly limited to larger cities. The NEA is the only arts funder in America, public or private, that supports the arts in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Additionally, 40 percent of the NEA’s program funds are distributed through State arts agencies, reaching tens of thousands throughout the U.S. NEA funding provides access to the arts in regions with histories of inaccessibility due to economic or geographic limitations.

At the national level, the arts and cultural sector contributed \$763.6 billion to the U.S. economy in 2015, 4.2 percent of the GDP, and counted 4.9 million workers who earned \$372 billion in total compensation. The tax-exempt performing arts organizations contributed \$9 billion to the U.S. economy and employed 90,000 workers, who earned \$5.6 billion in total compensation. Consumers spent \$31.6 billion on admissions to performing arts events.

Opera’s increasing civic practice supports healthy and vibrant communities.

Opera companies are finding new and exciting ways to bring the essence of opera to other local theaters, community centers, and public spaces outside traditional opera houses, frequently with new and innovative works that reflect the diverse communities of the cities they serve. Strong partnerships with local schools extend the civic reach of opera companies as they introduce children to a multi-media art form and discover promising young talent.

Founded in 1970, OPERA America is national service organization for opera and the Nation’s leading champion for American opera. OPERA America’s membership includes 157 professional member companies in the United States, located in 41 States and the District of Columbia.

—*Economic Impact:* In fiscal year 2016, budgets of OPERA America’s member organizations totaled \$1.1 billion, including both personnel and non-personnel expenses. As 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, opera companies depend on support from private philanthropy and governmental sources. In fiscal year 2016, private support totaled \$510 million, representing 47 percent of total operating income; while total city, county, State, and Federal Government support comprised 7 percent of total operating income.

According to data compiled by the NEA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis’ U.S. Arts and Culture Production Satellite Account, revenues from opera companies totaled \$955 million, suggesting that opera companies account for roughly 9 percent of the value added by tax-exempt performing art companies. OPERA America’s members employed a total of 2,551 full-time, 8,119 part-time, and 18,698 contract staff in 2017.

—*Communities Served:* Opera audiences are growing more diverse. From 2008–2012, the percentage of African-American attendees increased by 59 percent; and attendance by Latino audiences increased by 8.3 percent. During those same years, audience members in the 18–24 age bracket grew by 43.2 percent and those in the 25–34 age bracket grew by 33.8 percent.

—*Opera Works:* Much of the success of opera’s increasing audience is the result of the creation of new works, telling uniquely American stories. Since 1900, over 1,000 new operatic works have been produced in North America, with more than 600 operas premiering between 1995 and 2017. In the 2016–2017 season alone, 30 North American operas premiered.

The two most frequently produced American operas in 2016–2017 were: *As One*, a chamber opera, depicting the experiences of its sole transgender protagonist as she endeavors to resolve the discord between herself and the outside world; and *Dead Man Walking*, based on the book of the same name by Sister Helen Prejean. In fact, *As One* is among the most produced operas in the U.S., in a list that includes *Carmen*, *La boheme*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Rigoletto*.

NEA GRANTS AT WORK

NEA grants are awarded to opera organizations through its core programs: Art Works; Challenge America Fast Track Grants; and Federal/State Partnerships. In fiscal year 2018, the NEA awarded 63 grants to the opera field through the Art Works category, totaling \$1,905,000.

OPERA America received an Art Works Grant to support programs and services for the entire field of opera in addition to an Our Town grant to help build opera companies' capacity to increase the scope and intensity of their civic practice. In the second iteration of this grant, OPERA America is bringing communities together across the U.S. to share best practices for developing authentic community relationships and serving as reliable civic partners.

Below are just a few examples of noteworthy opera initiatives in the U.S.:

Sarasota Opera
Sarasota, Florida
\$20,000

Sarasota Opera received support for the Sarasota Youth Opera's production of "The Little Sweep," by composer Benjamin Britten. Set in the early 1800s, the opera tells the story of Sam, a young chimney sweep who is befriended by the children of an upper-class family. During the course of the opera, the children help Sam escape from his life as an indentured servant while learning more about the world beyond their comfortable surroundings. Originally conceived with a prologue by the composer, for this production the company will perform a newly created prologue and will alter the story location from England to Boston. The opera will be performed with chamber orchestra, fully staged, and will include full production values including sets, lighting, wigs, and make-up. Members of the year-round program are part of the company's mainstage productions, sing in the choral program, and perform in the annual youth opera.

Opera Theatre of Saint Louis
Saint Louis, Missouri
\$90,000

Opera Theatre of Saint Louis received support for the commission, development, and premiere of "Fire Shut Up In My Bones," by composer Terence Blanchard and librettist Kasi Lemmons. The full-length opera, based on the memoir of New York Times columnist Charles Blow, portrays the author's childhood in Gibsland, Louisiana, where life was a daily economic struggle. The story addresses issues of loneliness, violence, sexuality, and making choices. Relating the author's challenges with abuse at the hand of a family member, the opera is the story of a man who is struggling to belong and desperate to find another life. The music of the opera incorporated gospel and blues choruses, Louisiana blues and jazz, and dance. As many as six performances will occur at the Loretto-Hilton Center in summer 2019.

Opera Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee
\$25,000

Opera Memphis received support for 30 Days of Opera and The McCleave Project. The 30 Days of Opera program is an outreach initiative intended to break down barriers that prevent new and underserved audiences from attending opera. Program activities included concerts, opera performances at schools, "pop-up" opera performances, and a family day at the opera. The second program, named for African-American opera singer and educator Florence McCleave, will include a new set of initiatives with a focus on engaging people of color. Activities included facilitated "community connection" conversations following performances in underserved neighborhoods, collaborations with Memphis-based African-American arts groups, and a reimagining of the Young Artist Program as a fellowship for singers, directors, and coaches of color.

Santa Fe Opera
Santa Fe, New Mexico
\$80,000

Santa Fe Opera received support for a new production of "Doctor Atomic" by composer and NEA Opera Honoree, John Adams, and librettist Peter Sellars. The opera tells the story of the final hours leading up to the detonation of the first atomic bomb at the Trinity Test Site in Alamogordo, New Mexico in July 1945. The libretto draws on original source materials, stitching together declassified U.S. Government documents and communications among scientists, government officials, and military

personnel involved in the project; personal memoirs; recorded interviews; technical manuals of nuclear physics; borrowed texts from the Bhagavad Gita and the poetry of Charles Baudelaire, Muriel Rukeyser, and John Donne; and a traditional Native American Tewa song.

OPERA America is grateful for the \$2 million increase to the NEA in fiscal year 2019. The continued bipartisan support for the agency has enriched the lives of artists and audiences, allowing opera and the arts to address critical issues, making communities healthier and more vibrant.

We urge you to continue toward restoration and increase the NEA funding allocation to \$167.5 million for fiscal year 2020. On behalf of OPERA America, thank you for considering this request.

[This statement was submitted by Marc A. Scorca, President and CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is highly supportive of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (CWSRF) and is requesting that appropriations for this program be increased to at least \$2.5 billion in fiscal year 2020. The CWSRF is an effective loan program that addresses critical water infrastructure needs while benefitting the environment, local communities, and the economy.

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources statewide. OWRC members are local governmental entities, which include irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to roughly 1/3 of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower production.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS

We recognize our country must make strategic investments with scarce resources. The CWSRF is a perfect example of the type of program that should have funding increased because it creates jobs while benefitting the environment and is an efficient return on taxpayer investment. CWSRF projects also provide much needed construction and professional services jobs, particularly in rural areas facing economic hardship. Moreover, as a loan program, it is a wise investment that allows local communities to leverage their limited resources and address critical infrastructure needs that would otherwise be unmet.

In Oregon, the CWSRF is administered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), who responsibly maintains the program through repaid loans, interest, fees, and available Federal capitalization grants. According to EPA, for every \$1 of Federal capitalization funding, \$3 worth of assistance is provided, leveraging available funds to maximize benefits for local communities and the environment we share. Unfortunately, available funding continues to be woefully insufficient to meet the growing water infrastructure funding needs in Oregon and nationwide.

Nationally, there are large and growing critical water infrastructure needs. In EPA's most recent survey, *The Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2012: Report to Congress and Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment: Fifth Report to Congress*, the estimated funding need was \$384 billion (in 2011 dollars) for drinking water infrastructure and \$271 billion (in 2012 dollars) for wastewater infrastructure needs respectively. Funding for water infrastructure, specifically CWSRF, needs to be incrementally increased in order to meet these critical needs.

BACKGROUND OF CWSRF USAGE BY IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Over the course of the program's 30-year history in Oregon, several OWRC member districts have successfully used CWSRF for projects that improve water quality and water quantity associated with water delivery diversions, canals and pipelines throughout the State. OWRC and our members are highly supportive of the CWSRF, including promoting the program to our members and annually submitting Federal appropriations testimony to support increased funding for the CWSRF. We believe it is an important funding tool that irrigation districts and other water sup-

pliers are using for innovative piping projects that provide multiple environmental and economic benefits.

Numerous irrigation districts and other water suppliers need to pipe currently open canals, which significantly reduces sediment, improves water temperature, and provides other water quality benefits to rivers and streams. Piping immediately improves the efficiency of the water delivery system and helps increase available water supplies for fish and irrigators alike. These projects also decrease energy consumption (from reduced pumping) and have opportunities for generating renewable energy, primarily through in-conduit hydropower. However, continually reducing the amount of funds available for these types of worthwhile projects has created increased uncertainty for potential borrowers about whether adequate funding will be available in future years. CWSRF is often an integral part of an overall package of State, Federal and local funding that necessitates a stronger level of assurance that loan funds will be available for planned water infrastructure projects. Reductions in CWSRF could lead to loss of grant funding and delay or derail beneficial projects that irrigation districts have been developing for years.

We continue to be highly supportive of expanding “green infrastructure,” in fact, irrigation districts and other water suppliers in Oregon are on the forefront of innovative piping projects that provide multiple environmental benefits, which is discussed in greater detail below. In 2009, four Oregon irrigation districts received over \$11 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the CWSRF for projects which created valuable jobs while improving water quality. These four projects were essential to DEQ not only meeting, but exceeding, the minimum requirement that 20 percent of the total ARRA funding for the CWSRF be used for “green” projects. Without the irrigation district projects, it is likely that Oregon’s CWSRF would not have qualified for ARRA funding.

The success Oregon districts have had in using the loan program to design and implement multi-benefit projects has led to increased applications to the CWSRF. Now irrigation districts are once again eligible for a key funding element, principal forgiveness (which was reinstated with the passage of the WIIN Act in 2016 and related State rulemaking in 2017), and we expect to see even more interest in the program. OWRC is hopeful with an increase in money available, there will be enough funding available to complete projects that will not only benefit the environment and the patrons served by the water delivery system, but also benefit the economy.

CWSRF NEEDS IN OREGON

The appropriations for the CWSRF program over the past few years has been far short of what is needed to address critical water infrastructure needs in Oregon and across the Nation. This has led to fewer water infrastructure projects, and therefore a reduction in improvements to water quality and water quantity.

We are pleased to see a proposed modest increase in appropriations after several years of decreased funding and hope to see this trend continue as addressing infrastructure needs has become more expensive and even more critical. DEQ’s most recent “Proposed Intended Use Plan Update #2—State fiscal year 2019,” lists 31 loan applications in need of a total of \$171,670,456 in Oregon alone.

The following irrigation district projects are currently ranked by DEQ in the top three by overall score and also meet several categories of the Green Reserve requirement related to improved water and energy efficiency. Increased funding will help catalyze many more projects like the ones below in Oregon and throughout the Nation.

MIDDLE FORK IRRIGATION DISTRICT (HOOD RIVER COUNTY) \$20,000,000

Sec. 319 Design and Construction, Clear Branch Dam Rehabilitation and Coe Branch Pipeline. The district will implement multiple projects to improve water quality and quantity associated with its irrigation diversions in the Middle Fork Hood River watershed. Specific projects include: installing a new deep water outlet and improving fish passage in Laurance Lake; installing new irrigation pipe to alleviate impacts from current irrigation system and addressing return flows from the irrigation system; improving the spillway at the Clear Branch Dam; and improving irrigation efficiency by district patrons. The project meets the Green Project Reserve category 2.2–8 (water efficiency). The project is consistent with the 2014 Final Oregon Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan.

SWALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT (DESCHUTES COUNTY) \$16,000,000

Sec. 319 Design and Construction, Irrigation Modernization Project. This irrigation piping project includes the installation of pressurized pipe to eliminate seepage

and evaporative loss from open ditches; flow regulating and metering devices at service connections; pressurized delivery to eliminate individual pumps system-wide; active education and a sprinkler exchange program. The project meets Green Project Reserve category 2.2–8 for water efficiency and category 3.2–2 for energy efficiency because piping and pressurizing the irrigation canals will result in approximately 1.1 million kWh/year in energy conservation and conserve up to 16 cubic feet per second of water during the irrigation season. The project is consistent with the 2014 Final Oregon Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan.

LONE PINE IRRIGATION DISTRICT (DESCHUTES, JEFFERSON AND CROOK COUNTIES)
\$2,000,000

Sec. 319, Design and Construction, Irrigation Modernization Project. This project will modernize district-owned canals and laterals to conserve water, improve operational efficiency, reduce electrical and energy costs, reduce O&M for farmers through decreased pumping and improve habitat in the Deschutes River. It will achieve these goals by piping all of the district's open canals using HDPE and steel pipe. The existing suspension bridge over the Crooked River is in disrepair and a new structure is needed to convey the irrigation water across the river. The district will replace the bridge with a siphon under the river. The project meets Green Project Reserve categories 2.2–8 (more efficient irrigation) and 3.2–2 (20 percent reduction in energy consumption) will prevent 8.8 cfs of water loss, will leave 5.2 cfs of saved water in stream and reduce energy use by 2,500,000 kW hours per year. The project is consistent with the 2014 Final Oregon Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL WATERSHED PLANNING

Additionally, OWRC is pleased that EPA continues "strategic partnerships" with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and other Federal agencies to improve water quality and address nonpoint source pollution. Oregon had two priority watersheds eligible for funding through the National Water Quality Initiative in 2014 and anticipates that additional watersheds will be included in the future. As Oregon is a delegated State, OWRC also feels strongly that DEQ is best situated to develop and implement activities to improve these and other impaired waterways in the State. DEQ's administration of the CWSRF has been an extremely valuable tool in Oregon for improving water quality and efficiently addressing infrastructure challenges that are otherwise cost-prohibitive.

DEQ has recently revised Oregon's CWSRF rules; thus making conservation easier and maximizing benefits in the State. Oregon's success in watershed planning illustrates planning efforts work best when diverse interests develop and implement plans at the local watershed level with support from State government. As the national model for watershed planning, Oregon does not need a new Federal agency or executive branch office to oversee conservation and restoration efforts. Planning activities are conducted through local watershed councils, volunteer-driven organizations that work with local, State and Federal agencies, economic and environmental interests, agricultural, industrial and municipal water users, local landowners, tribes, and other members of the community.

There are over 60 individual watershed councils in Oregon already deeply engaged in watershed planning and restoration activities. Watershed planning in Oregon formally began in 1995 with the development of the Oregon Plan for Salmon Recovery and Watershed Enhancement, a statewide strategy developed in response to the Federal listing of several fish species. This strategy led to the creation of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) in 1999, a State agency and policy oversight board that funds and promotes voluntary and collaborative efforts that "help create and maintain healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies." OWEB projects that can be integrated with eligible CWSRF projects (and other State and Federal funding programs) are helping revolutionize how we meet our critical water challenges and implement multi-benefit water infrastructure projects.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we applaud the CWSRF program for allowing Oregon's DEQ to make targeted loans that address Clean Water Act issues and improve water quality while incentivizing innovative water management solutions that benefit local communities, agricultural economies, and the environment. This voluntary approach creates and promotes cooperation and collaborative solutions to complex water resources challenges. We respectfully request the appropriation of at least \$2.5 billion

for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for fiscal year 2020.

[This statement was submitted by April Snell, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S FISHERIES RESTORATION IRRIGATION MITIGATION ACT PROGRAM

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is writing to express its strong support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) Program and is requesting that appropriations for this program be \$15 million in fiscal year 2020, which is the current authorized amount. The FRIMA program is an essential cost-share funding program that helps water users and fishery agencies better protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species while ensuring water supply delivery to farms and communities.

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources statewide. OWRC members are local governmental entities, which include irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to roughly 1/3 of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower production.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS

The FRIMA program meets a critical need in fishery protection and restoration, complimenting other programs through the U.S Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS). Fish passage and fish screen installations are a vital component to fishery protection with several benefits:

- Keeps sensitive, threatened and endangered fish out of canals and water delivery systems
- Allows fish to be safely bypassed around reservoirs and other infrastructure
- Eliminates water quality risks to fish species

There are over 100 irrigation districts and other special districts in Oregon that provide water supplies to over one million acres of irrigated cropland in the State. Almost all of these districts are affected by either State or Federal Endangered Species Act listings of Salmon and Steelhead, Bull Trout or other sensitive, threatened or endangered species. The design and installation of fish screens and fish passage to protect the myriad of fish species is often cost-prohibitive for individual districts to implement without outside funding sources.

Oregon irrigation districts anticipate no less than \$25 million in funding to meet current fish passage and fish screen needs in our State. Limited cost-share funds are available from the Oregon Watershed Enhanced Board (OWEB) program, but the primary cost-share for fish screen and fish passage projects has been provided by the districts and their water users. Projects include construction of new fish screens and fish passage facilities as well as significant upgrades of existing facilities to meet new requirements (new species or science) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service and the FWS. Upgrades are often needed to modernize facilities with new technologies that provide better protection for fish species as well as reduced maintenance and increased lifespan for the operator.

BACKGROUND OF THE FISHERIES RESTORATION IRRIGATION MITIGATION ACT (FRIMA) PROGRAM

FRIMA, originally enacted November 2000, created a Federal partnership program incentivizing voluntary fish screen and fish passage improvements for water withdrawal projects in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and western Montana. The funding goes to local governments for construction of fish screens and fish passage facilities and is matched with non-Federal funding. Irrigation districts and other local governments that divert water for irrigation accessed the funding directly, while individual irrigators accessed funding through their local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which are local governments affiliated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The original legislation in 2000 (Public Law 106-502) was supported and requested by the Pacific Northwest Partnership, a coalition of local governmental entities in the four Northwest States, including OWRC. The FRIMA legislation author-

ized \$25 million annually, to be divided equally among the four States from 2001 to 2012, which was when the original authorization expired. The actual funding appropriated to the FRIMA program (through congressional write-ins) ranged from \$1 million to \$8 million, well short of the \$25 million it was authorized for and far short of what is needed to address fish passage and screening needs across the region. However, that small amount of funding was used to leverage other funds and assisted the region in making measurable progress towards installing fish screens and fish passage needed to protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species.

FRIMA funding was channeled through FWS to State fishery agencies in the four States, distributed using an application and approval process based on a ranking system implemented uniformly among the States, including the following factors: fish restoration benefits, cost effectiveness, and feasibility of planned structure. All projects provided improved fish passage or fish protection at water diversion structures and benefitted native fish species in the area, including several State or federally listed species. Projects were also subject to applicable State and Federal requirements for project construction and operation.

FRIMA was reauthorized as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) of 2016. However, a fifth State, California, was also added as an eligible FRIMA cost-share recipient and the program was only reauthorized for \$15 million, well short of the estimated \$500 million in fish screening and passage needs in the Pacific Northwest alone. Now that the program has been reauthorized, it is imperative the program receive appropriations so all five States can better leverage State/local funding to meet their fish passage and screening needs.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

FRIMA projects provide immediate protection for fish and fills a large unmet need in the West for cost-share assistance with fish screening and fish passage installation and improvements. FWS has issued a report covering program years fiscal year 2002–2012 that provides State-by-State break-down of how the congressional provided funding has been used in the program. Compared to other recovery strategies, installation of fish screens and fish passage has the highest assurance for increasing numbers of fish species in the Pacific Northwest. Furthermore, the installation of these devices have minimal impacts on water delivery operations and projects are done cooperatively using methods that are well accepted by landowners and rural communities.

The return of the FRIMA program will catalyze cooperative partnerships and innovative projects that provide immediate and long-term benefits to irrigators, fishery agencies, and local communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. This program is also a wise investment, with past projects contributing more than the required match and leveraging on average over one dollar for each Federal dollar invested. FRIMA provides for a maximum Federal cost-share of 65 percent, with the applicant's cost-share at 35 percent plus the on-going maintenance and support of the structure for passage or screening purposes. Applicants operate the projects and the State agencies monitor and review the projects.

OREGON PROJECTS & BENEFITS

Twenty-six fish screens or fish passage projects in Oregon were previously funded using FRIMA for part of the project financing. These projects have led to:

- Installation of screens at 17 diversions or irrigation pumps
- Removal or modification of 12 fish passage barriers
- Three-hundred sixty-five miles being re-opened to fish passage

In addition, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has used some of the FRIMA funding to develop an inventory of need for fish screens and passages in the State. Grants ranged from just under \$6,000 to \$400,000 in size with a local match averaging 64 percent of the project costs, well over the amount required under the Act (35 percent). In other words, each Federal dollar invested in the FRIMA program generates a local investment of just over one dollar for the protection of fish species in the Pacific Northwest.

The following are examples of how Oregon used some of its FRIMA money:

Santiam Water Control District: Fish screen project on a large 1050 cubic feet per second (cfs) multipurpose water diversion project on the Santiam River (Willamette Basin) near Stayton, Oregon. Partners are the Santiam Water Control District, ODFW, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, and the City of Stayton. Approved FRIMA funding of \$400,000 leveraged a \$1,200,000 total project cost. Species

benefited included winter steelhead, spring Chinook, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout.

South Fork Little Butte Creek: Fish screen and fish passage project on a 65 cfs irrigation water diversion in the Rogue River Basin near Medford, Oregon. Partners are the Medford Irrigation District and ODFW. Approved FRIMA funding of \$372,000 leveraged a \$580,000 total project cost. Species benefited included listed summer and winter steelhead, coho salmon, and cutthroat trout.

Running Y (Geary Diversion): Fish screen project on a 60 cfs irrigation water diversion in the upper Klamath Basin near Klamath Falls, Oregon. Partners are the Wocus Drainage District, ODFW, and Jeld-Wen Ranches. Approved FRIMA funding of \$44,727 leveraged a total project cost of \$149,000. Species benefited included listed red-band trout and short-nosed sucker.

Lakeshore Gardens: Fish screen project on a 2 cfs irrigation water diversion in the upper Klamath Basin near Klamath Falls, Oregon. Partners are the Lakeshore Gardens Drainage District and ODFW. Approved FRIMA funding of \$5,691 leveraged a total project cost of \$18,970. Species benefited included red-band trout, short-nosed sucker and Lost River sucker.

CONCLUSION

Increasing appropriations for FRIMA will fill a vital funding gap for fish screens and fish passage projects that are needed to better protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species, which also benefits the economy, local communities, and the environment we share. FRIMA funds projects that are ready to be constructed and will provide immediate improved protections for fish and immediate jobs for the construction of the projects. Dollar-for-dollar, providing screening and fish passage at diversions is one of the most cost-effective uses of restoration dollars, creating fishery protection at low cost, with low risk and significant benefits.

The return of a robustly funded FRIMA program will catalyze cooperative partnerships and innovative projects that provide immediate and long-term benefits to irrigators, fishery agencies, and local communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. We respectfully request an appropriation of \$15 million for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act program for fiscal year 2020.

[This statement was submitted by April Snell, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE USDA FOREST SERVICE

May 17, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member, Appropriations Sub-
committee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall,

The undersigned organizations are strong supporters of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program funded by the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service). We rely on the inventory data and analysis of America's forests provided by the program, which make up the backbone of scientific knowledge on the current state of the Nation's forests. This critical information is needed to support sound policy and forest management decisions, both public and private, and is increasingly important for decisions regarding new and expanding markets. We urge the Congress to support the FIA program and request funding for the program in fiscal year 2020 of at least \$83 million to move the program toward providing an accurate and timely inventory of America's forests. We also urge the inclusion of language ensuring that this funding would, at minimum, maintain historic remeasurement cycles—every 7 years in the east and every 10 years in the west—as referenced by the administration.

The data and information collected by FIA serves as the basis for: identifying trends in forest ownership; measuring carbon stocks; assessing fish and wildlife habitat; evaluating wildfire, insect, and disease risk; predicting the spread of

invasive species; determining capital investment in existing forest products facilities and selecting locations for new forest product facilities; and identifying and responding to priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans.

The FIA program is utilized by a large set of diverse stakeholders interested in the state of America's forests. These include forest resource managers at mills, land managers, conservation groups, university students and faculty, and State and Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The undersigned organizations would like to work with Congress to further explore program potential. An annual funding level of \$83 million would support a seven-year annualized program in the east, and a 10-year program in the west as recommended in the Forest Service's 2007 FIA Strategic Plan. In 2015 the Forest Service released an updated FIA Strategic Plan, which outlines a variety of potential program deliverables at funding levels. While we are supportive of at least \$83 million in funding for fiscal year 2020, the 2015 Strategic Plan calls for \$103 million to implement the 5-year annualized program called for in the 1998 Farm Bill. This reduction in cycle length would provide more accurate data to support important forest resource decisions.

As engaged partners, we are interested in working with Congress and the Forest Service to make program delivery as efficient as possible and to support additional Federal investment to implement many of the useful tools outlined in the new FIA Strategic Plan, such as, urban inventory, increased plot density, and improved carbon and biomass estimates. Further, the 2018 Farm Bill called for "finding efficiencies in the program operations through the use of remote sensing technologies, where appropriate." We look forward to working with the Agency as this direction is implemented. There is a need to make FIA data more robust and more useful for emerging uses, such as accurate information regarding carbon stocks, forest sustainability monitoring, wildlife habitat assessments, and much more. Given the increasing pressures facing our forests-from wildfire, insects and disease, and development-the FIA program is more important now than ever before. Funding the FIA program at \$83 million for fiscal year 2020 would move toward providing for our growing data needs.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association	Massachusetts Forest Alliance
American Forest & Paper Association	McCord Tie and Timber, Inc.
American Forest Foundation	Mississippi Forestry Association
American Forests	National Alliance of Forest Owners
American Wood Council	National Association of Forest Service Retirees
American Woodcock Society	National Association of State Foresters
Arkansas Forestry Association	National Audubon Society
Association of Consulting Foresters	National Wild Turkey Federation
BB&S Treated Lumber of New England	Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.
Boise Cascade Company	Pennsylvania Forestry Association
Ecological Society of America	Rayonier
Empire State Forest Products Association	Ruffed Grouse Society
Florida Forestry Association	SC Pole and Piling Inc
Fontana Wood Preserving	SFP
Forest Products Industry National Labor Management Committee	Society for Range Management
Forest Resources Association	Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Forestry Association of South Carolina	Society of American Foresters
Gross & Janes Co.	Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Hancock Natural Resource Group	Tank Fab Inc
Idaho Forest Group	The Hardwood Federation
IN Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society	The Nature Conservancy
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association	The Westervelt Company
Kentucky Forest Industries Association	Treated Wood Council
L&C Carbon	Vermont Woodlands Association
	Viance LLC

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF INVESTMENTS IN KEY FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

March 15, 2019

<p>The Honorable Betty McCollum Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies U.S. House of Representatives 50 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2007 Washington, DC 20515</p>	<p>The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies U.S. Senate 100 Constitution Avenue NE, Room 131 Washington, DC 20510</p>
<p>The Honorable David Joyce Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies U.S. House of Representatives 15 Independence Avenue SE, Room 1016 Washington, DC 20515</p>	<p>The Honorable Tom Udall Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies U.S. Senate The Capitol, Room S-146A Washington, DC 20510</p>

Dear Chairwomen McCollum and Murkowski and Ranking Members Joyce and Udall:

As Congress begins the process of drafting the fiscal year 2020 budget, we appreciate that spending choices must be made that coincide with our Nation's priorities. As the Committee seeks to maximize the effectiveness of every Federal dollar, we would like to highlight the role effective partnerships can play in addressing our Nation's forest challenges. For this reason, the undersigned organizations support investments in key Federal programs that support State and private forestry activities throughout the United States. A critically-important component of the Forest Service's budget, these programs help tackle some of the most pressing issues in forestry while conserving and improving America's forestlands; enhancing and protecting our drinking water; contributing to healthy, livable communities; and encouraging forest product innovation and utilization. Even further, these investments help the Nation deliver important economic growth across the sector, especially in rural communities.

The USDA's Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program area (S&PF) has a long history as an important part of the Forest Service and the profession of forestry. Private forests constitute most of the Nation's forests and over 90 percent of our domestically-produced forest products. Providing this important technical and financial assistance to private landowners and the resource managers responsible for managing more than 60 percent of America's forests helps to increase the pace of work and on-the-ground results, improve the resilience of the Nation's forests, and protect communities and the environment from forest pests, invasive species, and wildland fires.

In fiscal year 2020, funding for the following State and Private Forestry and related programs that support them will help improve the health of the Nation's forests and encourage economic growth in a sector that sustains more than one million jobs in the United States. Our funding level requests include:

- \$29 million for the *Forest Stewardship Program*: Administered in cooperation with State forestry agencies, this program plays a fundamental role in keeping forests as forests. Forest insects, diseases, and wildfire know no bounds between Federal and non-Federal forests and assisting some of the 22 million private forest owners in managing non-Federal forests can help minimize the impacts to Federal lands, ultimately saving the Federal taxpayer millions of dollars. A forest landowner with a forest stewardship plan is almost three times more likely to actively manage their land than one without a plan, in turn creating jobs and developing the rural economies on which private forest lands rely to produce ninety percent of the Nation's wood supply. Additionally, landowners with stewardship plans are actively managing their lands, producing even more benefits for wildlife, clean water, and forest health.
- \$51 million for *Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands*: Pests and disease are national problems affecting private and public lands. Nationally, their

impact is in the tens of billions of dollars. The USFS Forest Health Management Program supports efforts to prevent, contain, and eradicate these costly and dangerous pests and pathogens affecting trees and forests. Since these pests know no bounds, it is critical to maintain robust funding for forest health management in both Federal and cooperative lands accounts.

- \$87 million for State Fire Assistance and \$18 million for Volunteer Fire Assistance Programs*: Ninety percent of the Nation's wildfires are human-caused and most of these starts are on State and private lands (which often spread to Federal lands). Initial attack is the key to reducing large fire costs and these programs are critical to these suppression efforts. State and volunteer fire crews provide much of that initial attack response and are deployed to assist on Federal fires and other emergency or disaster situations, in compliance with national safety and training standards.
- \$20 million for Landscape Scale Restoration*: The USFS works collaboratively with States and other partners using State Forest Action Plans to target limited resources to the highest priority forest needs across ownerships to achieve results with meaningful local, regional, and national impacts. The 2018 Farm Bill officially codified the Landscape Scale Restoration program and authorized \$20 million in annual appropriations, the amount of our request. In an era when our forests are facing an increasing number of challenges, this program allows for a small Federal investment to be matched and leveraged by States and put towards the most pressing threats to the forests that sustain American communities.
- \$83 million for Forest Inventory and Analysis*: This is our country's forest census, which has been ongoing since 1930. The collection and reporting of this information in a timely manner is vital for forest industry and others in planning their future economic investments based on availability of forest raw materials, as well as for keeping our Nation's forests healthy by tracking impacts to forests from fire, insects and disease, urbanization and development, and other threats.

While not specifying suggested budget levels, we want to also call your attention to the need for funding research, which provides the basis for policies that improve the health and quality of urban and rural communities, including helping to expand markets. A combination of responsible forest management combined with a healthy forest market will benefit the forest landscape and the communities that live in and around them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association	Mississippi Forestry Association
American Forest & Paper Association	National Alliance of Forest Owners
American Forest Foundation	National Association of Forest Service Retirees
American Forests	National Association of State Foresters
American Wood Council	National Audubon Society
American Woodcock Society	National Wild Turkey Federation
Arkansas Forestry Association	Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.
Boise Cascade Company	Pennsylvania Forestry Association
Empire State Forest Products Association	Rayonier
Florida Forestry Association	Ruffed Grouse Society
Fontana Wood Preserving	SC Pole and Piling Inc
Forest Products Industry National Labor Management Committee	Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Forest Resources Association	Society of American Foresters
Forestry Association of South Carolina	Spartanburg Forest Products
Gross & Janes Co.	Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Hancock Natural Resource Group	The Hardwood Federation
Idaho Forest Group	Tank Fab Inc
Indiana Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society	The Westervelt Company
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association	The Nature Conservancy
Kentucky Forest Industries Association	Vermont Woodlands Association
L&C Carbon	Treated Wood Council
Massachusetts Forest Alliance	Virginia Forestry Association
McCord Tie and Timber, Inc.	Viance LLC
	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES'
ENGAGEMENT IN THE WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAM

May 14, 2019

<p>The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Chairman Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510</p>	<p>The Honorable Tom Udall Ranking Member Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510</p>
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Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

As organizations dedicated to the protection and preservation of the historic and cultural resources of our Nation including but not limited to World Heritage Sites, we write in support of the United States' engagement in the World Heritage Program. We urge you to appropriate \$1.926 million for the National Park Service's International Park Affairs including at least \$1.25 million for the Office of International Affairs (OIA) to ensure our robust involvement with the program and to support many United States communities and sites seeking nomination to the World Heritage List. We also urge Congress to reject the administration's proposal to drastically reduce overall program funding for International Park Affairs while also shifting the Southwest Border Resource Protection Program into OIA. For the past three fiscal years, Congress has consistently appropriated \$1.648 million for International Park Affairs, including \$942,000 for the OIA. We believe that a modest increase to \$1.926 million for International Park Affairs including at least \$1.25 million for the Office of International Affairs is appropriate and merited.

The United States led the creation of the World Heritage Program in 1972 and was the first to ratify the Convention in 1973. Two of our national parks—Yellowstone National Park and Mesa Verde National Park—were among the first dozen sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978. Today, just 23 out of the 1,092 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List are in the United States, of which 18 are managed by the National Park Service (NPS). Many more sites of cultural and natural importance remain on the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List, and still others are eligible for nomination.

The Office of International Affairs within the NPS works to support protection and enhancement of parks around the world, responds to issues relating to existing World Heritage Sites, and selects eligible sites for the World Heritage Tentative List and shepherds them through the detailed nomination process. Inadequate funding hinders OIA's ability to support the increasing numbers of communities in the United States who seek nominations to the World Heritage List despite the considerable effort and financial expenditure required. Significant sites such as the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio; Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings in Arizona, California, Illinois, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin; and Civil Rights Movement Sites in Alabama remain on the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List. Inclusion on the World Heritage List brings communities and sites substantial cultural, economic, and social benefits. Increased funding for OIA would enable more American sites with international significance to be added to the World Heritage List.

The recent tragic fire at the Notre-Dame de Paris, also a World Heritage Site, reminds all of us of the importance of our collective history—and the need to safeguard and honor it. The severe damage to Notre Dame rouses us to protect other irreplaceable places that tell our human story. We must preserve these sites now so that they may remain for future generations.

We believe that it is of critical importance for the United States to remain robustly engaged in and supportive of the World Heritage Program. We urge you to provide funds to both support nominations of American sites to the World Heritage List and to demonstrate engagement in the important work of ensuring global peace through the mutual respect of heritage of outstanding universal value worldwide.

We greatly appreciate the strong support Congress has shown for the preservation of our Nation's heritage. We look forward to working with you through the appropriations process and thank you for your consideration.

For questions, please contact:

Destry Jarvis, Advocacy Chair, US/ICOMOS
destryjarvis2@me.com

or

Tom Cassidy, Vice President, Government Relations
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Tom_Cassidy@nthp.org

Sincerely,

US/ICOMOS (US National Committee for the International Council on Monuments
and Sites)
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Parks Conservation Association
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Archeology Southwest
The Coalition for American Heritage
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
Ohio History Connection

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING IN
INVESTMENT IN USDA FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

May 17, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member, Appropriations Sub-
committee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

Improving the future health and sustainability of the Nation's forests and grasslands requires a strong investment in USDA Forest Service Research and Development (R&D), with benefits to forests, wildlife, and fish. The undersigned organizations and professional societies urge Congress to increase funding for all Forest Service R&D to a minimum of \$310 million in fiscal year 2020 including all necessary increases for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program and at least \$227 million for the remaining Forest and Rangeland Research program areas.

Building on over 100 years of critically important research, Forest Service R&D programs inform policy and land-management decisions that improve health and use of the Nation's forests and grasslands, including aquatic systems. Funding for these important activities is critical to sustaining the Nation's natural resources. Showing value in this investment requires R&D leaders and scientists be attuned and responsive in providing relevant and timely information and support with an ability to effectively deliver assistance to all users. Notable recent Forest Service R&D contributions include:

Using Science to Guide Drought Management Response

Forest Service R&D has been a leader in reviewing impacts of drought on U.S. forests and rangelands to help better manage for drought resiliency and adaptation going forward. Forest Service R&D assessments and guidance offers assistance to Federal, State, and private organizations in implementation strategies to sustain healthy, resilient ecosystems that continue to produce vital goods and services.

Helping to Identify Pragmatic Solutions for Species at Risk

Through long-term monitoring and collaborative research efforts with State agencies and other partners, Forest Service R&D informs land management decisions that benefit wildlife and people by providing an understanding of wildlife-habitat relationships for multiple species and communities. This includes informing conservation efforts that have helped to avoid Endangered Species Act listings for several forest and rangeland wildlife species.

Improving Smoke and Fire Management Capabilities

The Prescribed Fire Combustion and Atmospheric Dynamics Research Experiment is a landmark study improving predictions of fire spread and smoke behavior. This behavior prediction tool with the Blue Sky Smoke Management Model allows fire managers to better understand where flames and smoke from wildland fires will go to alert affected communities sooner and reduce human health effects.

Developing Innovative Solutions to Managing Invasive Species

Forest Service R&D also develops innovative solutions to manage invasive pathogens and species that can decimate native plant and animal populations. These investments resulted in a cost-effective way to quickly identify presence or absence of invasive species in an aquatic environment; trees with a natural resistance to emerald ash borers; and the first nonlethal treatment for white-nose syndrome—a lethal fungal disease that has reduced bat populations by upwards of 80 percent in certain parts of the country.

Expanding and Protecting U.S. Market Opportunities for Forest Resources

The Forest Products Laboratory drives innovation and expansion of commercial applications for forest products. The work at the Lab on woody biofuels, advanced composites and wood structures, and value-added wood products promotes healthy forest ecosystems and economies by creating, enhancing, and protecting markets for forest products. In partnership with universities, scientists from Research Stations across the country, and partners in the private sector, the Lab is exploring potential of mass timber structures by conducting work on building codes and wood utilization models to increase use of wood in building construction and invigorate existing and create new markets for wood products.

Calculating the Value of Urban Forests and Trees

City leaders can calculate the value of new tree plantings in terms of property value increases, future energy savings, air pollutant uptake, and storm water runoff reduction helping cities protect and restore environmental quality and enhance economic opportunity.

Quantifying the Role of Forests in Providing Clean Air and Water

This research directly linking trees to clean air and water underscores the economic value and benefits trees and forests provide to all residents and communities. Recent R&D work shows that forests, which make up 26 percent of U.S. land area, are the source of 46 percent of the U.S. water supply—generating far better returns than other land uses. This understanding of how to manage forested landscapes to enhance production of sustained, low cost clean water supplies and improved air quality are cost effective and critically important to human health providing a value of nearly \$7 billion every year.

Advancing forest science is integral to improving the health and welfare of U.S. forests and citizens, increasing the competitiveness of U.S. products in the global marketplace, and adapting to unforeseen future challenges. Continuing the trend of reductions in the R&D budget will result in significant gaps in the knowledge base and data sets necessary to address the many threats facing our Nation's forests and associated wildlife could result in competitive losses in the global economy. Therefore, our organizations request a funding level of \$310 million for USFS R&D with particular emphasis on research projects uniquely suited to R&D expertise and the furthering of agency and partner objectives.

Sincerely,

American Forests
 American Wood Council
 American Woodcock Society
 Arkansas Forestry Association
 Boise Cascade Company
 Ecological Society of America
 Empire State Forest Products
 Association
 Florida Forestry Association
 Fontana Wood Preserving
 Forest Resources Association
 Forestry Association of South Carolina
 Gross & Janes Co.
 Hancock Natural Resource Group

Idaho Forest Group
 IN Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society
 Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners
 Association
 Kentucky Forest Industries Association
 L&C Carbon
 McCord Tie and Timber, Inc.
 Mississippi Forestry Association
 National Alliance of Forest Owners
 National Association of Forest Service
 Retirees
 National Audubon Society
 National Wild Turkey Federation
 Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.

Pennsylvania Forestry Association	Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Rayonier	Tank Fab Inc
Ruffed Grouse Society	The Hardwood Federation
SC Pole and Piling Inc	The Nature Conservancy
SFP	The Westervelt Company
Society for Range Management	Treated Wood Council
Society for the Protection of NH Forests	Vermont Woodlands Association
Society of American Foresters	Viance LLC

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

Madame Chair and Members of the subcommittee:

The Partnership for the National Trails System appreciates your support over the past 25 years, through operations funding and dedicated Challenge Cost Share funds, for the national scenic and historic trails administered by the National Park Service. We also appreciate your increased allocation of funds to support the trails administered and managed by the Forest Service and for the trails in the Bureau of Land Management's National Conservation Lands System.

2018 was the 50th year since Congress established the National Trails System as a bold experiment in public/private collaboration for public benefit. While most of the trail making is done by tens of thousands of citizen stewards increased funding is needed to close gaps in these trails. To continue the progress that you have fostered and to begin the next 50 years with an increased investment in the National Trails System, the Partnership requests that you provide annual operations funding for each of the 30 national scenic and historic trails for fiscal year 2020 through these appropriations:

- National Park Service*: \$16.426 million for administration of 23 trails and for coordination of the long-distance trails program by the Washington office. Construction and Maintenance: \$357,200 for the Ice Age Trail, \$175,000 for the Arizona Trail, and \$200,000 for the Pacific Crest Trail.
- USDA Forest Service*: \$100 million for trails construction and maintenance (CMTL) with \$8.826 million of it to administer 6 trails and \$1.3 million to manage parts of 16 trails administered by the NPS or BLM. \$3 million for Iditarod Trail construction and maintenance.
- Bureau of Land Management*: \$2.812 million to administer three trails and for coordination of the National Trails program and \$7.14 million to manage portions of 13 trails administered by the Park Service or the Forest Service and for operating five National Historic Trail interpretive centers. Construction: \$100,000 for the Iditarod Trail. Maintenance: \$200,000 for the Iditarod Trail, \$125,000 for the Arizona Trail, and \$300,000 for the Pacific Crest Trail.

We ask you to appropriate \$900,000,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and allocate \$33,408,000 of it to these agencies to purchase 41 tracts along six national scenic and six national historic trails:

- Bureau of Land Management: \$2,895,000
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: \$5,419,000
- U.S. Forest Service: \$7,237,000
- National Park Service: \$17,857,000

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The \$16.426 million we request for Park Service operations includes increases for some of the trails to continue the progress and new initiatives made possible by the additional funding Congress provided several years ago. We request an increase of \$68,000 to \$450,000 for the National Trails System Program account to provide stronger support for the 23 national trails administered by the Park Service. An increase of \$570,000 for the Old Spanish Trail will enable the Park Service to begin implementing the Trail's new Comprehensive Administrative Strategy working with the Old Spanish Trail Association to increase volunteer participation in signing, interpreting, and educating the public about the trail. The Park Service will be better able to collaborate with the Bureau of Land Management in administering the trail and to consult with other agencies to protect the cultural and natural resources along it from destruction by energy projects.

We request an increase of \$660,000 to expand Park Service efforts to protect cultural landscapes at more than 200 sites along the Santa Fe Trail, to develop GIS mapping, and to fund public educational and community outreach programs of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Increases of \$313,224 for the Oregon Trail and \$255,192

for the California Trail will enable the Park Service to work with the Oregon-California Trails Association to develop digital and social media to connect with youth in the cities along these trails providing information about their many layers of history and to better protect the historical and cultural heritage sites and landscapes along them from destruction by energy development in the West. Congress doubled the length of the Trail of Tears in 2009, but provided no additional funding to manage the additional trail. An increase of \$165,000 to \$656,000 will provide for management of this additional trail and more support for the work of Trail of Tears Association volunteers.

We request an increase of \$173,000 to \$300,000 for the New England Trail to strengthen the outreach and community engagement of the Connecticut Forests & Parks Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club along the trail and support trail relocations and reconstruction work of these organizations' volunteers. We request a modest increase to \$2,050,000 for the Lewis & Clark Trail to administer the Eastern Legacy extension along the Ohio River authorized by Congress in S. 47.

We request an increase of \$300,000 to \$833,000 for the Ala Kahakai Trail to enable the Park Service to work with E Mau Na Ala Hele, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, and other community organizations to care for resources on the land and with the University of Hawaii to conduct archaeological and cultural landscape studies along this trail.

The \$1,020,000 we request for the 4,200 mile North Country Trail will enable the Park Service to provide greater support for the regional GIS mapping, trail building, trail management, and training of volunteers led by the North Country Trail Association. The \$1,500,000 we request for the Ice Age Trail includes a \$665,000 increase to build partner and citizen capacity for building new and maintaining existing trail, protecting the natural and cultural resources on the lands purchased for the trail, and to provide the Park Service with a planner to accelerate planning of the land protection corridor for the trail.

Construction and Maintenance: We request that you provide \$357,200 for the Ice Age Trail to build 10 miles of new trail and several trailhead parking lots and repair damage from catastrophic floods; \$175,000 for maintenance of the National Park Service segments of the Arizona Trail; and \$200,000 for trail construction projects on National Park Service segments of the Pacific Crest Trail.

USDA—FOREST SERVICE

We ask you to appropriate \$100 million for trails construction and maintenance (CMTL) to begin to address the considerable maintenance backlog on the trails in the National Forest System. Within this appropriation we request that you provide \$8.826 million as a separate budgetary item specifically for the Arizona, Continental Divide, Florida, Pacific Crest, and Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail within the over-all appropriation for Capital Improvements and Maintenance for Trails. Recognizing the on-the-ground management responsibility the Forest Service has for 1024 miles of the Appalachian Trail, more than 650 miles of the North Country Trail, and sections of the Ice Age, Anza, Caminos Real de Tierra Adentro and de Tejas, Lewis & Clark, California, Iditarod, Mormon Pioneer, Old Spanish, Oregon, Overmountain Victory, Pony Express, Trail of Tears and Santa Fe Trails, we ask you to appropriate \$1.3 million specifically for these trails.

We ask that you provide direction to the Forest Service to specifically allocate the funding appropriated for the administered and managed national scenic and historic trails directly to those trails.

The Partnership's request of \$8.826 million includes \$1.5 million to enable the Forest Service and Florida Trail Association to continue trail maintenance, to control invasive species, do ecosystem restoration, and otherwise manage 4,625 acres of new Florida Trail land. The \$8.826 million request also includes \$2.5 million for the Pacific Crest Trail, \$2 million for the Continental Divide Trail, \$1 million for the Pacific Northwest Trail, \$926,000 for the Nez Perce Trail, and \$900,000 for the Arizona Trail. The additional funds requested will enable the Forest Service to develop Comprehensive Management Plans for the latter three trails. We also request \$3 million of additional funding for construction and for maintenance of sections of the Iditarod Trail in the Chugach National Forest.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Although considerably more money is needed to fully administer the National Conservation Lands System and protect its resources, we request that you appropriate \$84 million in base funding for the System. We ask that you appropriate as new permanent base funding \$250,000 for National Trails System Program Coordi-

nation, \$1,000,000 for the Iditarod Trail, \$230,000 for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail, \$1,332,000 for the Old Spanish Trail, and \$4,000,000 for the Bureau to manage 4,645 miles of 13 other national scenic and historic trails. We request \$100,000 to construct new sections of the Iditarod Trail and to maintain these trails: Iditarod Trail—\$200,000, Arizona Trail—\$125,000, and Pacific Crest Trail—\$300,000. We also request \$3,140,000 to operate five historic trails interpretive centers.

To promote greater management transparency and accountability for the National Trails and the whole National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), we urge you to request expenditure and accomplishment reports for each of the NLCS Units for fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 and to direct the Bureau to include unit-level allocations within major sub-activities for each of the scenic and historic trails, and wild and scenic rivers—as the Bureau has done for the national monuments, wilderness, and conservation areas—within a new activity account for the National Landscape Conservation System in fiscal year 2020. The Bureau's lack of a unified budget account for National Trails prevents the agency from efficiently planning, implementing, reporting, and taking advantage of cost-saving and leveraging partnerships and volunteer contributions for every activity related to these national resources.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Partnership strongly supports full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at the authorized \$900 million for the component Federal and State programs funded under LWCF. Within this amount we request that you appropriate \$33,408,000 to acquire 41 parcels along these 12 national scenic and historic trails:

Bureau of Land Management: \$2,895,000 | 12 parcels | 1,845 acres

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (ID) \$2,295,000 to protect riparian ecosystems and migratory corridors with habitat for sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, and elk, and historic and cultural resources.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (OR) \$600,000 for trail and resource protection within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: \$5,419,000 | 6 parcels | 1,790 acres

California National Historic Trail (ID): \$1,570,000 to protect the largest breeding concentration of Sandhill Cranes and a haven for other waterfowl near Grays Lake NWR from agricultural development.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (VA) \$3,000,000 to preserve and provide access to sites of historic encounters between John Smith and indigenous peoples and protect major eagle and migratory bird stopover habitat in the Rappahannock River and James River NWRs.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (WA) \$849,000 to preserve a wealth of unique ecosystems and enhance ecosystem connectivity between State-protected lands and the Steigerwald NWR.

U.S. Forest Service: \$7,237,000 | 15 parcels | 2,219 acres

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (NC, TN, VA,) \$4,582,000 to protect miles of several trout streams, relocate trail segments, preserve trail viewsheds, and provide habitat for rare birds and ecological connectivity and watershed protection near or adjacent to the Pisgah NF State-protected lands.

Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZ) \$200,000 for an easement in Little Casa Blanca Canyon closing a gap in the trail and removing it from a dangerous road.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CO) \$2,300,000 to acquire land around Muddy Pass to enable 14 miles of the trail to be relocated from a busy highway near Steamboat Springs and \$65,000 to protect alpine headwaters of the Rio Grande River in San Juan County, Colorado.

Florida National Scenic Trail (FL) \$90,000 to fill trail gaps and provide connectivity between protected areas along the Withlacoochee River and adjacent to Suwannee River State Park.

National Park Service: \$17,857,000 | 8 parcels | 5,720 acres

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (HI): \$6,000,000 to protect 444 archaeological sites at an ancient coastal indigenous gathering area that hosts a wealth of native plants and wildlife both above and below ground in lava tubes.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (MA, ME) \$3,357,000 to protect the remaining 8 miles of shoreline and enable public access for Bald Mountain Pond, to enable multiple trail re-routings, to preserve delicate habitats for threatened and endan-

gered species, to support connectivity of riparian and forest habitats, and to preserve iconic scenic viewsheds.

Ice Age National Scenic Trail (WI) \$1,500,000 to help acquire several parcels within the Cross Plains Unit of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve in Dane County.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (VA) \$4,000,000 to purchase 1000 acres.

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail (NY) \$3,000,000 for preservation of a Revolutionary War-era supply depot site and cemetery.

PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

Public-spirited partnerships between private citizens and public agencies have been a hallmark of the National Trails System since its inception. These partnerships create the enduring strength of the Trails System and the trail communities that sustain it by combining the local, grass-roots energy and responsiveness of volunteers with the responsible continuity of public agencies. They also provide private financial support for public projects, often resulting in a greater than equal match of funds.

The private trail organizations' commitment to the success of these trail-sustaining partnerships grows even as Congress' support for the trails has grown. In 2018 the trail organizations fostered 978,034 hours of documented volunteer labor valued at \$24,147,660 to help sustain the national scenic and historic trails. The organizations also raised private sector contributions of \$14,489,472 for the trails.

[This statement was submitted by Gary Werner, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF PRESERVATION ACTION

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and Members of the subcommittee, on behalf of Preservation Action's more than 3,000 members and supporters, I appreciate the opportunity to present written testimony on the Department of Interior's fiscal year 2020 for the National Park Service and its historic preservation programs. Founded in 1974, Preservation Action is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization created to serve as the national grassroots advocacy organization for historic preservation. We represent an active and engaged grassroots constituency from across the country, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide their perspective.

The U.S. Congress listened to the American people in 1966 when it enacted the National Historic Preservation Act. Today, the Federal legislation and programs created through it serve as the backbone for the historic preservation industry. For over 50 years, the NHPA and the historic preservation field has demonstrated a proven track record of saving places Americans value, revitalizing communities, reusing infrastructure, telling American history for the public benefit of all. Continued funding to the National Park Service and the programs it executes is vitally important for America's past to help shape our future.

Preservation Action's mission is to make historic preservation a national priority. For 45 years we've advocated for sound preservation policy, including two of the most important tools for historic preservation—the Historic Preservation Fund and the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HTC).

National Park Service: Historic Preservation Fund

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the principal source of funding to implement the Nation's historic preservation programs. Since 1976 the HPF has helped to recognize, save, revitalize and protect America's historic resources. Preservation Action is extraordinarily grateful for the strong support Congress and especially this Committee, have shown for the HPF in recent years, including fiscal year 2019's \$102.66 million, the highest level of HPF funding in history. The HPF provides funding to States and Tribes to carry out their federally mandated duties and supports critically important competitive grant programs that empowers States and local communities to preserve places that help to tell a more complete American story.

Preservation Action urges this subcommittee to fund the Historic Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2020's Department of Interior budget at the following level:

—\$60 million for *State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs)* for heritage preservation and protection programs that create jobs, economic development, and community revitalization. In partnership with the Federal Government, SHPOs carry out the primary functions of the National Historic Preservation Act including—finding and documenting America's historic places, making nomina-

- tions to the National Register, providing assistance on rehabilitation tax credit projects, reviewing impacts of Federal projects, working with local governments, and conducting preservation education and planning. Additionally, States are required to match at least 40 percent of the money they receive from the HPF.
- \$20 million for *Tribal Historic Preservation Officers* (THPOs). THPOs are designated by federally recognized Tribal governments that have entered into an agreement with the Department of the Interior to assume the Federal compliance role of the SHPO on their respective Tribal lands. Tribal historic preservation plans are based on traditional knowledge and cultural values, and may involve projects to improve Indian schools, roads, health clinics and housing. Funding levels have not kept pace with the growing number of Indian Tribes with THPO programs, resulting in a lower average grants per Tribe.
 - \$5 million for *competitive grants for SHPOs and THPOs to invest in geographic information systems-based mapping of historic resources* (New program). 21st century digital maps would allow project planners to know where cultural resources have already been located and where they are likely to be identified. It would encourage early participation in project planning, enabling SHPOs and THPOs to work with project sponsors to plan, design, and develop projects that avoid harm to historic resources, lessen conflict, and expedite project delivery.
 - \$30 million for *Civil Rights Initiative Competitive Grants*. A competitive grant program to preserve the sites and stories of Civil Rights in America. \$20 million of these funds would have to be used to preserve the sites and stories of the African American Civil Rights movement.
 - \$10 million for *Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. Funding would provide grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to preserve and repair historic buildings on the campuses of HBCUs.
 - \$15 million for *Save America's Treasures Program*. Save America's Treasures grants program help preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections that convey our Nation's rich heritage to future generations of Americans.
 - \$7.5 million for *Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program*. The purpose of the program is to rehabilitate and preserve historic resources, while fostering economic development of rural communities.
 - \$1 million for the *Under-Represented Communities Grant Program*. These competitive grants support the survey and nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks associated with communities currently under-represented.

Total Historic Preservation Fund Request: Fiscal year 2020 \$148.5 million

Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit

The Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HTC), administered by SHPOs and the NPS, is the most significant Federal investment in historic preservation. Since its creation more than 35 years ago, the HTC has been a catalyst for development with the rehabilitation of more than 44,000 buildings across the Nation. Since inception, the HTC has created over 2.5 million jobs and leveraged over \$144 billion in private investment. In addition to revitalizing communities and spurring economic growth, the HTC returns more to the Treasury than it costs. In fact, Treasury receives \$1.25 in tax revenue for every dollar invested. The HTC has helped to rehabilitate historic structures and revitalize communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands. From helping to rehabilitate the Brown and Hawkins building in Seward, AK, the oldest store in Alaska, to the Mill No. 1 project in Baltimore, Maryland, the Historic Tax Credit is helping communities rebound and recapture their economic vitality as well as provide creative uses for old buildings and stimulate job growth.

In 2017, tax reform legislation preserved the 20 percent HTC, but changed it so that it is spread over 5 years at 4 percent per year. While we are incredibly grateful the HTC was retained, the changes made decreased the overall value of the tax credit. Preservation Action and its national members urge Congress to protect the Historic Tax Credit, look for opportunities to improve and enhance the program, and continue to support the HTC by sufficiently funding SHPOs and the NPS who administer the program.

Preservation Partnership Program: National Heritage Areas

We'd also like to express our support for the Preservation Partnership Program which supports National Heritage Areas nationwide. Designated by Congress, National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are community-driven sites that weave cultural, natural, and historic resources together to tell nationally significant stories. NHAs rely

on public-private funding where every Federal dollar allocated is matched with an average of \$5.50 in public and private funds. Preservation Action greatly appreciates Congress and this Committee's continued support of NHAs, especially considering the program was proposed for significant cuts or elimination the last few years.

We'd also like to thank Congress and this committee for their passage of S.47, John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. This bill included several important pieces of legislation such permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and authorization of the HBCU preservation program. Additionally, S.47 established 6 new National Heritage Areas.

While we appreciate the importance shown by recognizing these 6 new NHAs, funding has not kept pace. Since 2004 the number of NHAs have doubled while funding for the program has only increased by 33 percent.

To bring funding in line with the increased number of NHAs, Preservation Action requests, in accordance with the National Alliance of National Heritage Areas, \$32 million for National Heritage Areas through the Preservation Partnership Program in the fiscal year 2020 Department of Interior's budget.

Conclusion

Preservation Action appreciates the opportunity to provide our views on the fiscal year 2020 Department of Interior budget. We work closely with a broad cross-section of preservation professionals from the State and local level and are pleased to be able to add their perspective as the Committee considers funding levels.

Preservation Action continues to value the dedicated work of National Park Service employees, the partnership of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as well as the instrumental work of SHPOs and THPOs in preserving America's cultural heritage.

Thank you for valuing the input of the preservation community as you consider the fiscal year 2020 Department of Interior budget. We look forward to working with the committee and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

[This statement was submitted by Russ Carnahan, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

February 25, 2019

Sen. Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Rep. Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Sen. Joe Manchin
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Deb Haaland
Chairman
Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Betty McCollum
 Chair
 Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
 2007 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Rep. David Joyce
 Ranking Member
 Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
 1337 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members:

I am writing you on behalf of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) to alert you to unannounced developments within the National Park Service (NPS) which, we believe, merit your attention. Numerous sources have informed us that NPS is quietly moving to reduce the training required of its permanent law enforcement rangers.

We are attaching a report written by retired agency law enforcement professionals. It details the steps the NPS is taking steps to abandon mandatory attendance by its permanent law enforcement rangers in the academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). The agency is instead seeking to principally rely on seasonal law enforcement training programs independently operated at non-NPS facilities, such as community colleges, across the country.

Congress' charter for the FLETC declared that its purpose is to fill "an urgent need for high-quality, cost-effective training by a cadre of professional instructors using modern training facilities and standardized course content." PEER believes that this NPS move undermines this express intent of Congress.

Significantly, this shift would reverse a nearly 50-year trend towards steadily upgrading the training and professionalism in the NPS law enforcement ranger corps. As we understand it, the purpose of the NPS plan is to reduce training costs by—

- Compressing a 16-week training regimen into 12 weeks;
- Forcing rangers to pay for their own basic training. Seasonal academy tuitions range from four to seven thousand dollars, which not all can afford; and
- Skimping on facilities and equipment. FLETC has a world-class laboratory, driving range, and structures for realistic simulations that seasonal facilities lack. For example, at one school trainees must use their personal vehicles for traffic stops. Others simulate stops with classroom chairs.

Apart from reduced levels of training, the report raises questions about the quality of training offered by these seasonal academies which claim to be accredited but—

- Accreditation addresses standardization of curriculum and does not assure equivalency of training or the student's actual learning experience; and
- Many instructors are recruited "ad hoc" from nearby law enforcement agencies and are frequently unfamiliar with Federal law and/or NPS policies and manual requirements.

Under this plan, the Park Service would be the only Federal land management agency not using FLETC. Moreover, the U.S. Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management all train their permanent law enforcement personnel at FLETC, typically in classes including NPS ranger cadets. Removal of the NPS contingent would constrain the training schedules for these other agencies.

It should be noted that national park rangers have one of the most dangerous jobs in Federal service. The challenges facing today's law enforcement rangers are increasingly varied and complex, demanding more and better training, not less.

In addition, park ranger ranks have steadily fallen over the past decade even as the number of park units and visitation keeps rising. Thus, today's rangers are required to handle more cases and cover more ground with ever falling force levels.

This sea-change is taking place behind closed doors without consulting affected staff. Nor do we believe that the NPS has informed Congress about this move—hence this letter.

PEER requests that you contact the NPS about this subject and request a full briefing on its plans. In addition, we believe that a public airing of this plan would be beneficial. Your oversight would be most timely if initiated before this stealth downgrade is completed. As you know, the National Park Service still lacks a confirmed director. PEER maintains that major changes like these should await the arrival of permanent leadership.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you desire any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jeff Ruch
Executive Director

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony concerning the fiscal year 2020 appropriations for American Indian and Alaskan Native programs. My name is David Z. Bean, Vice Chairman of the Tribal Council for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The Puyallup Tribe is an independent sovereign nation having historically negotiated with several foreign nations, including the United States in the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854. This relationship is rooted in Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, Federal laws and numerous Executive Orders. The governing body of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians is the Puyallup Tribal Council which upholds the Tribe's sovereign responsibility of self-determination and self-governance for the benefit of the 5,427 Puyallup Tribal members and the 25,000 plus members from approximately 355 federally recognized Tribes who utilize our services. The Puyallup Reservation is located in the urbanized Seattle-Tacoma area of the State of Washington. The 18,061-acre reservation is a "checkerboard" of Tribal lands, Indian-owned fee land and non-Indian owned fee land. Our reservation land includes parts of six different municipalities (Tacoma, Fife, Milton, Puyallup, Edgewood and Federal Way).

The Puyallup Tribe operates healthcare, social services, law enforcement and corrections, education, and myriad other programs and services for its Tribal citizens and individuals within its program and service areas. These programs depend on continued resources and support through Federal appropriations—which reflect the Federal trust and treaty obligations with American Indian and Alaska Native people and our Tribes. This subcommittee is well aware of how years of chronically-inadequate funding for Indian program and the effects of inflation have impacted Tribes' ability to fully exercise self-determination and self-governance. We are certainly feeling those effects at the Puyallup Tribe. We therefore appreciate this subcommittee's continued rejection of worrying statements and budget requests from the administration to reduce or zero-out critical Indian programs. We also urge the subcommittee to build on the increases included in the recent Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 to help close the gap between available funding and Tribes' actual needs.

We also applaud Congress' use of indefinite appropriations for contract support costs and support the continued use of this practice.

SPECIFIC CONCERNS

Department of Interior—Bureau of Indian Affairs

Public Safety & Justice: Tribal and BIA detention and corrections funding is of critical importance to the Puyallup Tribe. In fiscal year 2009, the Puyallup Tribe received a \$7.9 million Department of Justice ARRA grant to construct a 28-bed adult corrections facility. Construction on the facility was completed in February 2014 and came online in May 2014. Since then, the Puyallup Tribe has worked closely with the BIA-Office of Justice Services National and Regional staff to identify the operating and staffing costs associated with the Puyallup Tribe's new adult corrections facility. When the Tribe submitted its initial Public Law 93-638 contract request to the BIA, the agreed upon estimated cost of operating the facility (including Pre-Award, Start-up, Transitional funding, Staffing, and O&M) was set at \$2.6 million annually. However, the BIA only offered approximately \$715,136 to the Tribe in fiscal year 2018 base funding. This represents only 27 percent of the Tribe's actual need for running the facility. The Tribe is currently in the process of submitting an updated contract request to continue with the program, and we expect that the BIA will still only pay a small fraction of our actual need.

In this context, we are concerned with the administration's repeated requests to reduce appropriations for BIA Public Safety & Justice, including Detention & Corrections—this funding already is not sufficient to allow the BIA to fund programs at true need. We appreciate the subcommittee's increase of \$2.5 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level for fiscal year 2019, rather than accepting the administration's requested cuts, and urge the subcommittee to build on this increase in fiscal year 2020. Public safety is especially critical in Indian Country, but we also

have a duty to provide a safe environment for corrections personnel and individuals serving a period of incarceration.

In addition, we operate a Tribal Court program through a Public Law 93–638 contract with the BIA. Our base BIA funding for this program has remained at \$194,996 since fiscal year 2015. Like the Detention & Corrections funding, this amount represents only a small amount of the Tribe’s needs to fully operate the Tribal Court program. For fiscal year 2019, the Tribe has allocated \$1.923 million of Tribal funds for the Tribal Court budget. We therefore commend the subcommittee on its effort to reject the administration’s request to reduce appropriations for this important program by \$8 million and instead increase it by \$1.6 million for the fiscal year 2019 appropriations, and suggest that the subcommittee continue to support increased appropriations for Tribal Courts.

Natural Resources Management: The Puyallup Tribe is the steward for the land and marine waters of our homeland, including our usual and accustomed fishing places and shellfish and wildlife areas. The United States has treaty, trust, and governmental obligations and responsibilities to manage natural resources for uses that are beneficial to the Tribal membership and the regional communities. Our resource management responsibilities cover thousands of square miles in the Puget Sound region of the State of Washington with an obligation to manage production of anadromous, non-anadromous fish, shellfish and wildlife resources. Unfortunately, despite our diligent program efforts, the fisheries resource is degrading, causing economic losses on Native and Non-native fishermen, as well as the surrounding communities.

Existing levels of appropriations are simply inadequate to reverse the trend of resource/habitat degradation in Puget Sound and in other areas. A minimum funding level of \$17.146 million is necessary for BIA Western Washington (Bolt) Fisheries Management program, and we urge the subcommittee to meet or exceed this amount for fiscal year 2020 appropriations. Any increase in funding would provide new monies for shellfish, groundfish, enforcement, habitat, wildlife and other natural resource management needs. As the aboriginal owners and guardians of our lands and waters it is essential that adequate funding is provided to allow Tribes to carry out our inherent stewardship of these resources.

The Puyallup Tribe also continues to operate a several salmon hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest/Puget Sound. These hatcheries benefit both Indian and non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries. We work cooperatively with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, neighboring Tribes, Federal agencies and State fishery managers to insure the success and sustainability of our hatchery programs. We are confident that the subcommittee will continue to reject the administration’s requests for cuts to the Fish Hatcheries Operations and Fish Hatchery Maintenance budgets, and urge the subcommittee to fund these programs at or above \$10.3 million for fiscal year 2020.

And finally, the Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Supplemental and U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty programs have allowed for the expansion of Tribal participation in the State forest practice rules and regulations, as well as allowed Tribes to participate in inter-Tribal organizations to address specific treaties and legal cases which relate to multi-national fishing rights, harvest allocations, and resource management practices. We appreciate the \$65 million fiscal year 2019 appropriation for Pacific Salmon recovery programs, and support continued and additional appropriations to implement the TFW Supplemental and Pacifica Salmon Treaty programs.

Education: The Puyallup Tribe operates the pre-K to 12 Chief Leschi Schools which included a verified 2018–2019 School student enrollment of 640 + students, including the ECEAP and FACE programs. With an increasing number of pre-kindergarten enrollment, Chief Leschi Schools will exceed design capacity in the near future and additional education facility space will be necessary to provide quality educational services to the students and Tribal community. And in the meantime, the costs of operation and maintenance—including supplies, energy, structural, and student transportation—continue to increase. In fiscal year 2018, the Puyallup Tribe provided a \$2.6 million subsidy for the operations and maintenance of Chief Leschi Schools.

We are pleased that the subcommittee rejected the administration’s proposed fiscal year 2019 \$741 million budget request for the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), which would have represented a decrease of \$173 million from the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. However, the fiscal year 2019 enacted level of \$904.5 million will not meet the actual operational needs of Tribal education programs.

The Puyallup Tribe strongly supports additional funding for the BIE, including at least \$78 million for Tribal Grant Support Costs for Tribally Operated Schools; \$109 million in facilities operations and \$76 million in facilities maintenance for the

School Facilities Account; \$73 million for Student Transportation; and \$431 million for Indian School Equalization Program formula funds.

The BIA's great failing over the years, to our children's detriment, has been its recurring failure to request sufficient funds from Congress to maintain Tribally- and BIA-operated school facilities.

Operations of Indian Programs & Tribal Priority Allocations: We are pleased that the subcommittee did not accept the administration's request to cut the BIA Operation of Indian Programs budget by \$26.5 million and instead increased the appropriation to \$2.414 billion, an increase of \$3.3 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. This funding is critical to the Puyallup Tribe and Tribes across the country. Tribal Priority Allocations (TPA) within the Operations of Indian Programs include the majority of funding used to support ongoing services at the "local Tribal" level, including; natural resources management, child welfare, other education, housing, and other Tribal government services. These functions have not received adequate and consistent funding to allow Tribes the resources to fully exercise self-determination and self-governance. Further, the small increases TPA has received over the past few years have not been adequate to keep pace with inflation. The Puyallup Tribe requests that the subcommittee increase funding for the Operation of Indian Programs and TPA at levels that reflect the increasing fixed costs, as well as inflation, and reject any requests to make cuts to the BIA budget.

Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service: Inadequate funding of the Indian Health Service is the most substantial impediment to the current Indian Health system. The Puyallup Tribe has been operating healthcare programs since 1976 through the Indian Self-determination Act, Public Law 93-638. The Puyallup Tribal Health Authority (PTHA) operates a comprehensive ambulatory care program to the Native American population in Pierce County, Washington. The current patient load exceeds 9,000, of which approximately 1,700 are Tribal members. There are no Indian Health Service hospitals in the Portland Area, so all specialties and hospital care have been paid for out of our contract care allocation. The Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) allocation to PTHA remains inadequate to meet the actual need. In fiscal year 2018, the Puyallup Tribe subsidized PRC with a \$6.2 million contribution. In fiscal year 2019, the Tribal subsidy has grown to \$10.9 million. Given that the PTHA service population is only comprised of 17 percent Puyallup Tribal members, Tribal budget priorities in fiscal year 2011 through 2018 has made continued subsidies to the PTHA financially difficult for the Puyallup Tribe.

Given the importance of the PRC allocation, we urge the subcommittee to continue providing increased funding above and beyond the \$2.1 million increase included in the recent fiscal year 2019 appropriations measure. IHS funding, both PRC and otherwise, continues to lag far behind actual need; according to the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), IHS funding provides only about 1/5 of the total Tribal needs budget of \$30 billion.

As with the BIA and BIE, the IHS also continues to request too few funds to operate and maintain Tribally-operated and IHS-operated health facilities. In Indian Country, facility space is precious and must be maintained if Tribes are to provide essential government services to their members and other eligible American Indian and Alaska Native beneficiaries.

The enacted fiscal year 2019 budget of \$5.804 billion for the IHS is a step in the right direction, and we urge the subcommittee to continue on that path.

[This statement was submitted by David Z. Bean, Vice-Chairman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE RAMAH NAVAJO SCHOOL BOARD, INC.

Honorable Chairwoman and subcommittee Members, *Ya'ah't'eeh*. I am Beverly J. Coho, President of the Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc., On behalf of the Ramah Navajo people I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide our oral testimony.

The People comprising the Ramah Band of Navajos—*Tl' ohchini Dine'e* the People of the Place of Wild Onions—have arrived in the 21st century intact, proud and independent. Having overcome a century of traumatic history that began with our ancestors perched on the precipice of extinction, followed by expropriation by foreign settlers of our ancestral lands and then decades of neglect by the institutions of Federal and Tribal governments, the Ramah Navajos made their mark in the last four decades of the 20th century by taking control of their own destiny—beginning with the establishment of the first Indian community school governed by an all-Indian, locally-controlled school board. The Federal Government recognizes the Ramah Navajo Community as a separate group, the Ramah Band of Navajo Indians, which has allowed the Community's institutions to apply directly for funding from various Fed-

eral sources, such as Workforce Development Services and Title IV programs. With over 40 years of institutional history, the Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. has developed a unique capacity to administer its own programs and—true to its founding vision—to educate its own people. The Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc., has become a vital organization in providing education, medical, mental and a myriad of social and community services needed in western portion of New Mexico and by helping us, we help all at less cost and better services.

In order to continue to provide these vital services we ask Congress for the following:

1. The Government Shutdown has had a disruptive impact on our organization. In order to prevent future harm, we ask that Congress provide advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs. There was little impact on our school, because most BIE accounts are forwarded funded (on a school year schedule).
2. Part of providing these services means having safe, adequate and usable facilities. Ours are not. We immediately need temporary portables to address the fact that both our kindergarten and library had to be closed because of black mold and also to address overcrowding—our middle school and high school are currently crammed into one building. In addition, dramatically and consistently increased funding under the BIA's Education Construction Budget is needed for Facilities Improvement and Repair; Replacement School Construction; and Replacement Facility Construction. The fiscal year 2019 Indian Affairs Budget Justification says there is a \$634 million deferred maintenance backlog. With regard to school replacement, we understand that the BIA is just now finishing construction on the 2004 replacement priority list and has made some headway on the 2016 list. This progress is possible only because this subcommittee increased Education Construction appropriations. More is needed, however. Despite the fact that our school and supporting infrastructure are in desperate need of substantial repairs, most buildings need outright replacement, and our schools drinking water system is long past the end of its useful (and safe) lifespan, we did not make it onto either replacement list. Our school is unfortunately, like many others in the BIE system that have noncompliant access, safety and health issues.
3. With the trend of multiple school shootings, we are very concerned for the safety of our students and staff. Our campus is readily accessible without a security fence. We need to have control of who enters our campus.

HOW WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc., being located in the western county of Cibola, has grown to not only provide services to its people, but to other non-Native people residing in neighboring counties of McKinley and Catron on the western portion of New Mexico. Our lands are “checker boarded” composed of private, State, Tribal, Federal, and Individual Indian Allotments. People have been moving into the area and require educational and health services. For instance, our Emergency Medical Services covers a 100-mile radius and has even responded to emergencies in the eastern State line of Arizona. We have worked hard in improving our EMS and we currently partnered with the University of New Mexico EMS Consortium to provide training and Emergency management oversight. This partnership has produced one of our own to become a paramedic and we are planning on having our paramedic be certified to become a trainer and have an UNM-EMS training center on-site in our community to assist five volunteer fire departments and other first responders. Our EMS is operating out of our federally qualified health center, Pine Hill Health Center (PHHC) which is the only ambulatory health center in the western portion of Cibola County. The closest IHS hospitals are in the Pueblo of Zuni, 90-mile round trip and in the town of Gallup, 120-mile round trip. In our area we have two national parks, three tribes, five to six villages and 5–6 volunteer fire departments.

OUR HISTORY

These feisty, determined and independent accomplishments will come as no surprise to any serious student of the historical and political circumstances confronted by the Ramah Navajo People. Dating from the time of the return to their ancestral homelands by the survivors of Hweeldi, the Long Walk of the 1860s that had removed hundreds of Navajo families from their homes and incarcerated them in the inhospitable plains of Bosque Redondo near Ft. Sumner in eastern New Mexico, the customary lands of the Ramah Navajos—Tl' ohchini—were never included in the lands established for the Navajo Reservation in the Treaty of 1868 between the

United States and the Navajo Tribe. Navajo occupancy of the lands to the north and in the vicinity of the current Village of Ramah was not legally recognized for many decades, and these lands were thus made available as “open range” for homesteading by non-Indian settlers. Mormon settlers began moving into the valley in 1876, and a series of land acquisitions by the settlers—legally recognized under American law—effectively pushed the Ramah Navajos onto the less fertile lands to the southeast.

CONCLUSION

The Ramah Navajo People have come a long way on the road to self-determination and to establishing the capacity to govern and educate its own people and provide services to three counties in New Mexico. There is still a way to go on that road, and the best way to stay the course and to continue to make progress is to maintain the current institutional relationships that the community has forged with its Tribal, Federal and State partners.

We look forward to your favorable consideration and plan to follow up on our testimony that we provided today. With your help, Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc., will continue to help all in our area.

Thank you.

To illustrate how a very modest Federal investment in our critical infrastructure could make a tremendous difference in the health and well-being of our students, our Priority Projects and Cost Estimates follow. These projects are essential and reflect our immediate needs.

Project, Description and Estimated Cost

1. School Library Building
 - a. Leaking roof
 - b. Mold abatement
 Estimated Cost of Repair—\$850,000
2. Kindergarten Building
 - a. Leaking roof
 - b. Mold Remediation
 - c. Asbestos Abatement
 - d. Window replacements
 - e. Bathrooms
 - f. Carpet replacement
 - g. HVAC
 Estimated Cost of Repair—\$300,000
3. School Gymnasium
 - a. Leaking roof
 - b. Mold abatement
 - c. Insulation replacement
 - d. Floor Damage
 - e. Locker rooms renovation/replacement
 Estimated Cost of Repairs—\$1,300,000
4. Campus Security
 - a. Perimeter Security Fence
 - b. Interior Security fence
 - c. Entrance Control
 - d. Security Cameras
 - e. Computers
 - f. Telephone
 Estimated Cost—\$500,000
5. Water System Upgrade
 - a. Preliminary Engineer Report
 - b. Architecture and Engineer Design
 - c. Construction
 Estimated Cost—\$4,450,000

TOTAL PRIORITY PROJECT BUDGET—\$7,400,000

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE RECORDING ACADEMY

My name is Neil Portnow, I am the President/CEO of the Recording Academy, an organization that represents thousands of individual music creators and professionals—songwriters, performers, studio professionals, and others creatively involved in making music. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony to the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. For fiscal year 2020, I urge the subcommittee to fund the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) at \$167.5 million. For fiscal year 2020, I urge the subcommittee to concur with the recently marked-up House Appropriations bill and fund the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) at \$167.5 million.

Throughout my tenure at the Recording Academy, it has been a privilege to support the NEA and its mission to provide all Americans with access to the arts. Every day the NEA enriches our culture and empowers our communities through music and art. As appropriators you have the power to ensure that the NEA can continue to strengthen the creative capacity of our towns, counties and cities—all for less than \$1 per American per year.

At a funding level of \$167.5 million, the NEA will be able to spread diverse opportunities for arts participation across all 50 States, while expanding its grant-making capacity that has proven to be a sound investment. In 2016, NEA funds yielded more than \$500 million in matching support—leveraging outside funds at a ratio of 9:1. The agency is a lynchpin in America's arts economy that now accounts for more than \$700 billion in economic activity.

When it comes to music, the NEA is responsible for preserving America's rich musical legacy and remains invaluable in the development and education of our future music creators. Over the last decade, the NEA has supported more than \$53 million in music related grants across all 50 States. From the Sitka Summer Music Festival in Alaska (\$15,000, 2018) to the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra (\$10,000, 2017) in Florida; and from the Outpost Performance Space in New Mexico (\$25,000, 2018) to the Yellow Barn (\$10,000, 2018) in Vermont, the NEA has brought music to your back yard. It must be funded to ensure that Americans in all walks of life can continue to enjoy and participate in the American musical experience.

I urge the subcommittee, and your colleagues in the Senate, to fully fund the NEA at \$167.5 million, so that the agency can execute its mission and enshrine America's commitment to the arts and to music.

 PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

April 23, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
 Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
 U.S. Senate
 Dirksen Office Building, SD-131
 Washington, DC 20510

Senator Murkowski:

This letter is written to express this agency's concern with the administration's fiscal year 2020 budget request to Congress which calls for steep cuts in funding to EPA, including a 33-percent reduction in Federal grants to State and local air pollution control agencies under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), for a total of \$152 million. Such cuts would be devastating for many programs, including to the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) in Dayton, Ohio.

RAPCA appreciates the work by Congress to avoid budget cuts to State and local clean air agencies in fiscal year 2019, however RAPCA urges Congress to approve additional funding in fiscal year 2020 to carry out our important public health responsibilities.

Federal grants to State and local air quality agencies are the same now as they were 15 years ago in fiscal year 2004—\$228 million. If adjusted for inflation, level funding would translate to approximately \$310 million in today's dollars. Therefore, we ask Congress to increase State and local air grants by \$82 million above fiscal year 2019 levels (i.e., approximately \$158 million above the administration's request), for a total of \$310 million.

RAPCA is part of the Public Health—Dayton and Montgomery County organization and is the local air pollution control agency serving Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Preble counties in southwest Ohio. RAPCA is directly funded by U.S. EPA to implement the Clean Air Act and we work closely with Ohio EPA

to accomplish the functions of issuing required air permits, conducting facility inspections and monitoring air quality, among other Clean Air Act requirements.

While great strides have been made in cleaning up the environment, air pollution remains a serious threat to public health. It causes tens of thousands of premature deaths in our country every year, as well as tens of millions of cases of adverse health impacts, such as cancer and damage to respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological and reproductive systems. Under the Clean Air Act, State and local air pollution control agencies have the “primary responsibility” for preparing implementation strategies to address air pollution problems. These tasks include, among others, air quality monitoring, planning and modeling, compiling air emission inventories, adopting regulations, analyzing data, and inspecting facilities. In southwest Ohio, for example, we are particularly concerned about ozone pollution and assuring compliance of high-profile facilities such as the Stony Hollow Landfill and the Fairborn Cement Plant in addition to being responsive to industry business needs with regards to assisting facilities with obtaining requisite construction air permits. Accordingly, we work with the local Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Organization (MPO), the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission to alert the public by issuing ozone air pollution advisories when air quality levels are concerning. We also perform enhanced inspections and ambient air monitoring of high-profile facilities, while continuing to meet “routine” Clean Air Act requirements.

There are many challenges facing our agency in meeting the Clean Air Act requirements. Reductions in staffing levels and training, as well as staff retirements and retention are major obstacles to accomplishing our mission to protect public health. Since 2012, RAPCA has reduced staff by over 35 percent and additional cuts of the magnitude proposed by the administration would devastate our program and our ability to protect vulnerable populations from the harmful effects of air pollution as well as provide timely services to the regulated communities.

Maintaining the air pollution control program locally provides stakeholders in our region with opportunities for input to a local entity responsible for the air program. RAPCA staff is committed to serving the community in which we live and dedicated to being more responsive to the requests from the public, the media, the business community, and to providing timelier service than the State. RAPCA is part of the Dayton region and we seek to improve the quality of life for all residents.

RAPCA is doing its best to improve air quality and provide quality services to the regulated community but adequate Federal funding is critical. Please help promote public health by ensuring Federal grants to State and local air quality agencies are increased to keep pace with inflation. RAPCA recommends Congress provide fiscal year 2020 grants in the amount of \$310 million (\$158 million above the administration's request) to maintain level funding from fiscal year 2004 levels, adjusted to inflation. Thank you for any assistance you can offer in this matter.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF RIVERSIDE-SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INDIAN HEALTH, INC.

I am Teresa Sanchez and I am the Board Vice-President for Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc., located in Southern California. I am also a member of the California Area Tribal Advisory Council and a member of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning the health needs of Native Americans funded through appropriations to the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc., is a Tribal organization that provides health services to our member Tribes, including behavioral health, dental, diabetes programs, eye care, general medicine, nutrition, outreach and pediatrics.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR TRIBAL CLINICS

There is a desperate need for increased funding for Tribal clinics to keep pace with inflation and population growth. Despite the large increases in the overall IHS budget in fiscal year 2018, our Tribal organization received no increase above our fiscal year 2017 allocation. We had anticipated a \$1.5 million to \$2 million increase based on the national IHS budget receiving an overall 9.9 percent increase that year, but instead we were flat funded. Even worse, we did not find out the final amount we would receive until the last day of the fiscal year—after services had been provided and costs had been incurred. This situation is untenable if we are going to continue providing the same level of services to the over 15,000 patients we serve each year. For this reason, we support advance appropriations.

This problem has been exacerbated by agency decisions to reallocate funds that were appropriated to ensure Tribal clinics can keep up with the rising costs of medical care. For instance, in fiscal year 2018, the Acting IHS Director reallocated \$25

million of inflation funding to pay for the unfunded costs of new section 105(l) leases. These funds should have come to the clinics for base direct services funding. Instead, IHS issued a consultation request with only 12 working days to respond after the July 4th holiday. That is not meaningful consultation. And, to compound matters, IHS did not inform the Tribes of its final funding decision until mid-September. Moreover, IHS had \$33 million of unspent funding in the discretionary CHEF account (more on that below), which they could have used to cover this shortfall, but instead chose to roll that over into the next fiscal year, leaving Tribal clinics coming up short. We raised the lack of transparency at the national IHS level with the Acting Director and have received unsatisfactory responses.

We ask that funds be appropriated for general base increases for population growth and inflation rather than specific targeted increases that the agency considers “non-recurring” or that only benefit special projects.

INCREASED PURCHASED/REFERRED CARE (PRC) FUNDING FOR “PRC DEPENDENT” AREAS

Four of the 12 Indian Health Services (IHS) Areas are designated “PRC dependent,” meaning they have little or no access to an IHS or tribally-operated hospital, and therefore must purchase all or a large portion of inpatient and specialty healthcare from non-Tribal providers at significantly higher cost.

Our region, the California Area, has no Tribal hospitals and since we receive only limited PRC funding, we often run out of funds well before the end of each fiscal year. This leads to the outright denial or rationing of critically-needed inpatient and other specialty health services. However, the formula used to allocate PRC funding to different IHS Areas tends to treat our clinics just like those in the remaining eight IHS areas, where PRC dollars are used to supplement care provided at nearby IHS hospitals.

The current IHS PRC allocation formula places the “PRC Dependent” designation and ability to access care factor in the lowest-priority Program Increases category. Since the Base Funding category gets funded first, followed by the Annual Adjustment category, and then the Program Increases category, the Program Increases category hardly ever receives an increase.

The large appropriations for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund in recent years has failed to change this situation, even though eliminating inequities in funding for PRC is a key goal of that Fund. See 25 U.S.C § 1621(a)(4). We ask that IHS be directed to address access to care issues and prioritize this factor in the PRC formula so we no longer have to deny necessary care to our patients due to funding shortfalls.

CHANGING THE THRESHOLD FOR CHEF FUNDING

For years, Tribal advocates have pushed for lowering the threshold to access the Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund (CHEF). This fund pays for catastrophic medical costs that rise above \$25,000; any bills that do not reach that limit are the sole responsibility of Tribal clinics using their limited PRC funding. The IHS Acting Director has not moved forward on the recommendation to reduce the threshold from \$25,000 to \$19,000, which would provide some relief to Tribal PRC budgets, even though the issue has gone out for comments twice in the Federal Register.

The Acting IHS Director justified his actions by stating that in order to change the threshold, the agency must consider an inflation factor and with the inflation factor they were using, it would take 10 years to catch up to the existing threshold of \$25,000, leaving access to the funds limited by Tribal clinics in the meantime. However, Tribal representatives pointed out that a great deal could change over the next 10 years and the program had a \$33,000,000 surplus for fiscal year 2018, so there is no reason to starve Tribal programs that in turn have to cut services or deny care entirely due to a lack of funding. We ask that you instruct the agency to lower the CHEF threshold.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

[This statement was submitted by Teresa Sanchez, Board Vice-President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SAC AND FOX NATION

On behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation, thank you for the opportunity to present our requests for the fiscal year 2020 Budgets for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Sac and Fox Nation has participated in Self-Governance within the Department of the Interior since 1991, and in 1993, became the very first Tribe to enter into a Self-Governance compact with Indian Health Service. Historically, the

Indian Affairs budget requests have given very little consideration to the funding needs of Self-Governance Tribes. Although efforts had been underway to change that, the current administration removed Tribal unmet needs from budget consideration. Self-Governance Tribes are operating Federal programs; we request that the BIA be required to include documentation of Tribal unmet needs with all budget requests. We further request the removal of appropriations language that prohibits Tribal access to shares of the BIA Central Office as provided for in the Indian Self-Determination Education Assistance Act. The Sac and Fox Nation requests advance, mandatory appropriations for Tribal programs, especially BIA and IHS line items. The recent extended shutdown of the Federal Government placed an unnecessary financial burden on Tribes at the local level where services are actually provided and most needed. At a minimum, BIA and IHS funding for Tribal programs should be exempt from any budget rescissions, sequestrations and unilateral budget reductions that are not equally assessed to all other funding beneficiaries.

Tribal Specific Requests:

- A. +\$35,000 increase to our Tribal General Assistance Program (GAP)—EPA—The GAP program the Sac and Fox Nation is currently administering is \$115,000.
- B. +\$20,000 increase to our solid waste and recycling funding
- C. +\$35,000—EPA—The country's largest system of pipeline infrastructure (the "Pipeline Crossroads of the World" in Cushing OK) is in Sac and Fox jurisdiction and we need funding to monitor our natural resources and ensure the safety of our citizens.
- D. \$4.95 million to Fully Fund Operations and Maintenance of the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center (SFNJDC)—Public Safety and Justice—Office of Justice Services—Detention/Corrections Facility Operations and Maintenance Account—BIA
- E. +\$120,000 recurring funding increase specifically for Tribal Court to fund one (1) additional FTE and additional court dates to cover the increased caseload from expansion of VAWA and TLOA authorities.
- F. +\$180,000 recurring funding increase for Indian Child Welfare to fund additional licensed social workers due to dramatically increased caseload.

Tribal Specific Requests

- A. +\$35,000 to our Tribal General Assistance Program (GAP)—EPA
We request a \$35,000 increase to support sufficient staff (1.5–2 FTEs) and to meet the needs of the community. The demand for our Office of Environmental Services has dramatically escalated and created a shortage of available resources to meet the demand. Base should be at least \$175,000. The program's purpose is to assist Tribes in building capacity to assume EPA responsibilities. The funding needs to be provided as stable base funding, complete with CSC, through the Nation's funding agreement instead of as a grant.
- B. +\$20,000 increase to fund solid waste and recycling—EPA
In May of 2013, the EPA released the GAP Guidance, to help set a national framework for how GAP funding may be used. Included was the directive that GAP funds could no longer be spent on the operation and maintenance of solid waste implementation activities. EPA required that Tribes build self-sustaining solid waste programs supported by other funding sources by 2017. Tribal leaders expressed concern that the 2017 deadline would be too quick to transition to an alternative model to fund solid waste management. No other funding sources were set in place of GAP to cover the services that Tribes had been providing for their communities since 2002. In the fiscal year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, an extension was granted, giving Tribes until 2020 to transition to different funding sources for their solid waste operations and backhaul. Beginning in fiscal year 2021, Tribal solid waste programs will no longer be able to use GAP funds for these specific efforts. Sac and Fox Nation supported the lifting of the 2020 moratorium, so we would no longer be prohibited from using GAP funding to support solid waste programs. However, after the moratorium was lifted, the budget was then cut by \$10,000.00. There still remains a lack of adequate funding for our solid waste and recycling program.
- C. \$35,000—Pipeline Crossroads of the World—Located in the Sac and Fox jurisdiction—funding needed to ensure that we can monitor our natural resources and ensure the safety of our citizens.

The environmental impacts to our community can be significant and life threatening. We have been collaborating with the private pipeline entities in the area; we are the best party to monitor our natural resources. Adequate

funding will allow us to do this and remove barriers to economic development while ensuring safety of our citizens and preservation of our land.

- D. \$4.95 million to Fully Fund Operations and Maintenance of the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center (SFNJDC)—Bureau of Indian Affairs—Public Safety and Justice—Office of Justice Services—Detention/Corrections Facility Operations and Maintenance Account

In 1996, the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center (SFNJDC) opened its doors as the first regional juvenile facility specifically designed for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN), as well as the first juvenile facility developed under Public Law 100–472, the Self-Governance Demonstration Project Act. At that time, the BIA made a commitment to fully fund the SFNJDC operations; however, this commitment was never fulfilled. Even though the Nation continues to receive and use Federal dollars to address the issue of juvenile delinquency and detention for Tribes in the Southern Plains Region and Eastern Oklahoma Region, it has never received sufficient funds to operate the facility at its fullest potential, including funds for proper facility maintenance. We do not understand the Federal Government’s desire to fund the construction of more detention facilities while our beds remain empty.

The SFNJDC is a 50,000+ square foot, full service, 24 hour, 60 bed (expandable to 120 beds) juvenile detention facility that provides basic detention services, utilizing a classification system based on behavioral needs to include special management, medium and minimal security. Through a partnership with the local high school, students are afforded an education. Additionally, the Sac and Fox Nation has an on-site Justice Center providing Law Enforcement and Tribal Court services and the Nation also operates an on-site health clinic which provides outstanding medical services that include contract service capabilities for optometry, dental and other health-related services.

Full funding would allow the Nation to provide full operations including (but not limited to):

- Juvenile placement and detention services at no cost to the 46 Tribes in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri and Arkansas.
- Re-establish and fully fund programs we have lost such as: On-site Mental Health Counseling; Transitional Living, Vocational Training, Horticulture, Life Skills, Arts and Crafts, Cultural Education and Activities, Spiritual Growth and Learning;
- Maintain and expand staff training to improve retention and allow for continuity in operations and service delivery.

Inadequate funding and decreases in base funding have resulted in underutilization and erosion of the programs our facility was built to offer. The current funding level represents only approximately 10 percent of what is needed to fully fund the SFNJDC operations and maintenance. Additional funding in the amount of \$4.6 million, over what Sac and Fox already receives in base funding (\$354,622), would fully fund the facility at a level sufficient to address the juvenile placement and detention needs in the six-State area.

- E. \$120,000 recurring funding increase for Tribal Court Expanded Authorities under VAWA and TLOA have dramatically increased the Nation’s Court case workload. The Nation requests a recurring funding increase to cover the expense of one (1) new FTE at the Tribal Court and the expense of additional monthly court dates to meet demand.
- F. \$180,000 recurring funding increase for Indian Child Welfare

The Nation’s current caseload involves over 100 children for two (2) social workers. The recommended number of cases per social worker is 17, whereas ours is 50+. The requested funding increase would allow the hiring of additional social workers at competitive pay and also decrease the individual workload, thereby increasing the quality of services.

2. NATIONAL REQUESTS—BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

- A. Concern: lack of access to administrative law judges for probate.
- B. Fully fund all provisions of the TLOA that authorizes additional funding for law and order programs that affect Tribal Nations.
- C. Allocate \$83 million in additional funding to the BIA to increase base funding for Tribal courts, including courts in Public Law 280 jurisdictions, and to incrementally move towards fully meeting the need for Tribal court funding.
- D. Increase funding for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) law enforcement and detention by at least \$200 million over the fiscal year 2017 funding level of \$353 million, including an increase in funds for officer recruitment and training and for Tribal detention facilities operations and maintenance.

E. Increase Tribal Base Funding (instead of through grants). Provide increases via Tribal base funding instead of through grants to Tribal governments. Grant funding, particularly inside the BIA, is not consistent with the intent of Tribal self-determination.

3. *NATIONAL REQUESTS—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE*

A. \$6.4 billion Mandatory Funding (maintain current services) a 26 percent increase over the fiscal year 2017 enacted amount. IHS should be considered an essential function, and be exempt from government shutdowns.

B. Opioid Funding—Increase funding and include Tribal set asides in any funding decisions to states. Addressing the opioid epidemic is a nationwide priority. American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) face opioid related fatalities three times the rate for Blacks and Hispanic Whites.

C. Oppose moving Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) into the discretionary spending from the mandatory account.

The Sac and Fox Nation supports the National Requests of the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Health Board and the National Indian Education Association. Thank you for allowing me to submit these requests on the fiscal year 2020 Budgets.

[This statement was submitted by the Honorable Kay Rhoads, Principal Chief.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY BATTLEFIELDS FOUNDATION

Madam Chair Murkowski & Ranking Member Udall:

The attached statement is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation urging the subcommittee to include fiscal year 2020 report language advising the National Park Service that the agency has mistakenly classified the National Historic District as a “National Heritage Area” contrary to the clear congressional intent.

Title VI of Public Law 104–333 established the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District with the explicit intent of creating a first-of-its kind public-private partnership for protection and management of nationally significant cultural heritage landscapes, referred to in the statute as a new “management entity”, instead of authorizing the National Park Service to acquire and manage the lands in all of the Valley battlefields, as would have been the traditional approach.

This new management entity is the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF).

Section 606 (j) of Public Law 104–333 includes authorization of 3 separate line-items of funding for the programs and activities of the “management entity”—the Foundation:

- Not more than \$2 million annually for grants and technical assistance,
- not more than \$2 million annually for land acquisition, and
- to the management entity not more than \$500,000 annually.

As stated in the 2019 House Department of Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill at <https://www.congress.gov/115/crpt/hrpt765/CRPT-115hrpt765.pdf>.

“*Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.*—The Committee recognizes the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District covering eight counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation that manages and protects it, as a unique model for the protection and preservation of nationally significant sites. The Committee urges the National Park Service to work with the District and the authorizing committees of jurisdiction to ensure that authorities provided under the District’s enabling legislation are fully utilized to maximize the effectiveness of this unique and proven public-private partnership.”

The National Park Service, in our view, has mistakenly classified SVBF, both our programs and funding, as a national heritage area (NHA) and has only sought funding in the President’s budget for SVBF as a discretionary allocation from the lump-sum line-item appropriated to support all of the NHA programs.

54 USC Ch. 3201 clearly classifies the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District as a National Battlefield Site and NOT as a National Heritage Area. <http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid%3AUSC-prelim-title54-chapter3201&edition=prelim>

We believe SVBF should have a distinct line-item appropriation as do the other listed National Battlefield Sites and be increased towards the level of funding that Congress intended to provide. We hope that both Congress and the administration

would recognize that for this unique model to be successful and to affirm the authorization of this “better way” to conserve and manage nationally significant heritage landscapes for the future through public-private partnerships, the funding levels that Congress intended are essential.

By every measure the Foundation has been a success. Over 8,000 acres have been preserved throughout the Shenandoah Valley. The Foundation manages over 5,000 of those acres; has developed and manages battlefield parks; is constructing a visitor’s center in Winchester and operates the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum. The Foundation provides renowned conferences tours and interpretive programs; routinely engages community and youth groups; generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in private donations and has increased tourism in a measurably significant way throughout the historic district.

What is important about the programs of SVBF?

Preserving Our Battlefields Preserves Our Nation’s Story.—The preservation and interpretation of our Nation’s Civil War Battlefields is increasingly more important. These protected lands serve as outdoor classrooms where generations can gather together and draw meaning, strength, and inspiration from our past. Continual national reflection and introspection is essential for the future of our country. Our battlefields provide us with a tangible link to our history of sacrifice and struggle and give us the forum to discuss ideas and ideals. The preservation of our Civil War battlefields is more about our future than our past—ensuring that the memory of that conflict is never forgotten, and the lessons never lost.

These preservation efforts also result in many environmental outdoor recreation benefits. Improvement of water quality, protection of rural agricultural landscapes, and development of historic walking trails all benefit the American citizens.

What is unique about SVBF?

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District was established by Congress in 1996 as an idea ahead of its time—an idea whose time has come. The District was established as a public private partnership—a Federal entity to be managed in perpetuity by a private non-profit organization, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

The genius of this model is that it combined the mission and operational directiveness of traditional units of the National Park System with the efficiency and effectiveness of the private sector. This allowed for the building of more robust partnerships; the generation of millions of dollars in private funding; quick reaction to preservation opportunities; and business systems that allow for lean and cost-effective operation. Unlike National Heritage Areas, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District was tasked with purchasing and protecting in perpetuity large swaths of open space and historic sites. In addition to promoting and generating heritage tourism like traditional National Heritage Areas, the District was created to provide directly for the experience of visitors—more like a National Park. Trails, interpretive signage, and visitor centers along with original educational programming and partner support were all envisioned as part of District’s unique model.

It’s a model that’s worked at a fraction of the cost to the Federal Government when compared to more traditional NPS approaches to battlefield management and interpretation.

Accomplishments on behalf of the American people:

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has facilitated the preservation of over 8,000 acres of Civil War Battlefields and today manages over 5,200 acres. The SVBF has installed and maintained over 10 miles of interpretive and recreational trails; designed and installed a district-wide system of historic markers; produced visitor’s guides; driving tours and wayfinding aids; published original histories and interpretive booklets; and provided educational programming to youth and adults alike. The lands managed by the SVBF have provided outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors and local residents and have been maintained with as much concern for the natural resources that they contain as the historic resources they protect.

The SVBF has opened six visitor orientation centers, one battlefield visitor center, and a museum; preserved collections of artifacts, rare books, letters, documents and furnishings; and opened Battlefield parks, restoring much of their 19th century appearance with historic fencing, cannon and vegetation. The SVBF interprets and provides visitor services at 20 Civil War battlefields and hundreds of related historic sites throughout the Valley, including major sites at McDowell, Cross Keys, Fisher’s Hill, Cedar Creek, and Second Winchester, the 600-acre Third Winchester Battlefield Park and Third Winchester Visitor Center, five interpretive trails, and the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum.

Interpretive programs include conferences, tours, major events, interpretive markers, driving tours, booklets, films, panels, signage, and exhibits. SVBF education and outreach programs serve pre-K through college age youths with on-site, interactive, and in-school initiatives, printed and web-based resources, and support for home school programs and school systems throughout the District.

What is the economic impact of the National Historic District?

The Valley's numerous battlefields and related historic sites are major heritage tourism attractions. The consulting firm of Tripp Umbach was recently retained by the Heritage Development Partnership to measure the economic, employment, and government revenue impacts of operations and research of 5 national heritage areas including the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. Tripp Umbach stated our historic district generates \$293.2 million in economic impact, supports 3,930 jobs and generates \$20.4 million in tax revenue. These numbers will only go up with the projects planned for the future.

Our outstanding work on behalf of the Congress of the United States has resulted in achieving the aims of the Congress at reduced cost from NPS sites and even more can be accomplished such as:

Preservation.—Preserving additional battlefield property through fee simple acquisition or donated easements. Any Federal money expended through the American Battlefield Protection Program is leveraged by State matching funds and private donations.

Stewardship.—Employing the highest and best standards for the treatment of historic and natural landscapes; protecting resources while providing for the enjoyment thereof through greater public access.

Heritage Tourism.—Enhancement of existing or creation of additional battlefield parks throughout the valley. These battlefield parks are beacons for tourism and history education; often used heavily by the local population for outdoor recreation.

Interpretation.—Meaningful upgrades to the District's interpretation including new exhibits that highlight not only military history but also the war-time experience of women, children and free and enslaved African-Americans; and new virtual and augmented reality programs, an electric map and hands-on exhibits.

[This statement was submitted by Keven Walker, CEO.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SHOALWATER BAY INDIAN TRIBE

The requests of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe (Tribe) for the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies budget are as follows:

- Support appropriation of funds through the Tribe's self-government agreement with the BIA to address additional planning efforts for a necessary Tribal relocation.
- Continue full funding for Contract Support Costs (CSC).
- Maintain adequate funding for Section 105(l) Clinic Leases
- Fund IHS in advance in parity with the Veterans Administration
- Maintain mandatory funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)

BACKGROUND

Thank you for inviting the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe to provide testimony today. My name is Charlene Nelson, and I am the Chairwoman of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe which is located 2,800 miles west by northwest of where we are meeting today on the beautiful north shore of Willapa Bay, facing out to the Pacific Ocean. As the Chairwoman of the Tribe, and in my former career as an educator and commercial fisherman, I have learned firsthand that vibrant and successful Indian communities are not possible without first attending to human health of the community members and also ensuring the health of the environment. I appreciate that this Committee is also responsible for those same priorities, and it is in that shared spirit of community responsibility that I speak to you today.

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

My first priority today is to ask you to ensure that BIA planning and assistance funds are available for our critical and ongoing fight to protect our Tribe against the imminent danger of coastal erosion and tsunami inundation, which could wipe out our entire reservation. Our reservation, with one small exception, is no higher than 6 feet above the ordinary high water mark of the Willapa Bay tides, and this low elevation places the entire reservation squarely within a tsunami zone. Think

about that for a moment-an entire Tribe wiped out in an instant. This danger is aggravated by climate change which is increasing sea levels and the intensity of extreme weather events that, in addition to tsunami danger, threaten our coastal community.

One way that we are addressing this immediate threat is through the construction of a 50-foot tsunami evacuation tower using funds from FEMA and the Tribe that is designed to allow our Tribal members and other local residents to survive a tsunami event. However, this project will only protect the lives of those that are able to reach it in time, and will not prevent the flooding of our homes, schools, roads and infrastructure.

That is why the Tribe is continuing its efforts to permanently relocate to higher elevation land that the Tribe already owns. The Tribe seeks funds to continue the engineering, planning and construction of a road to an upland elevation, out of the tsunami zone, and to begin the relocation process of the Tribe. The costs to carry out this next phase of work are very high, and the Tribe seeks this subcommittee's support in ensuring funds are available to support these efforts through the Tribe's existing BIA self-governance compact. The new road will provide access to a higher elevation land base that is safe from the threats of coastal erosion and tsunami. This relocation project will require a number of partners that have a stake in ensuring the safety of the Tribe: the Tribe, Washington State, Department of Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers.

While our request today is for planning and implementation funds for the Tribe from the BIA, other temporary efforts are under serious consideration. For instance, realizing how dire the situation is, the State and Corps of Engineers are working together to define a joint project for a dynamic revetment to help protect the berm to prevent further erosion and encroachment of water on our reservation lands. However, the Tribe also needs its own resources to be actively involved in what ultimately is our own relocation.

We appreciate that the 2019 House Interior Appropriations report specifically highlights the needs of coastal Tribes and gave the following direction: "The Committee supports the Bureau of Indian Affairs' efforts to address the needs of coastal Tribal communities by working to address threats to public safety, natural resources, and sacred sites. Consistent with the Federal Government's treaty and trust obligations, the Committee directs the Bureau of Indian Affairs to work with at-risk Tribes to identify and expedite the necessary resources." We ask the subcommittee to follow-up with the BIA on this directive.

CONTRACT SUPPORTS COSTS

We greatly appreciate the House and Senate Interior appropriations subcommittees work over the past several years in making a reality the full payment of Contract Support Costs (CSC) by both the IHS and the BIA. We are also very pleased that the administration has continued to request that CSC be maintained as a separate appropriations account in IHS and in BIA, and with an indefinite funding of "such sums as may be necessary". This action has been crucial to the strengthening of Tribal governments' ability to successfully exercise their rights and responsibilities as sovereign governments.

SECTION 105(L) CLINIC LEASES

We are gratified that IHS has been funding Section 105(l) leases for tribal health clinics under its responsibility as confirmed by the 2016 Federal court decision in *Maniilaq v. Burwell*, which held that section 105(l) of the ISDEAA provides an entitlement to full compensation for leases of Tribal facilities used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. We appreciate your supplemental appropriations in fiscal year 2019 to cover these costs, and we ask that funding continue to be made available for these important leases. This Committee has invited IHS to submit a report on the budget impact of meeting its responsibility. We oppose any appropriations rider, such as those included in the administration's budget proposals for fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019, which would allow IHS to avoid its responsibility to fully compensate Tribes. Tribes and Tribal organizations increasingly rely on section 105(l) leases to address chronically underfunded facilities operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. Congress declined to include such a provision in the fiscal year 2019 IHS appropriation and we ask that you treat this year's upcoming proposal the same way.

IHS ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

We thank Ranking Member Udall, Representative Don Young, and House Interior Appropriations Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce for introducing legislation to authorize advance appropriations for IHS and programs in the BIA and BIE.

Under advance appropriations we would know a year in advance what the budget would be and importantly, would not be constrained by the start and stop level funding of Continuing Resolutions, each of which requires the same processing and manpower for each partial payment as one full apportionment. When IHS funding is subject to a Continuing Resolution, we receive only a portion of annual funding at a time, making it particularly difficult to implement long-range planning and staffing. Even if CRs had not become the norm, having advance notice of funding levels would aid greatly in our health programs planning, recruitment, retention, and leveraging of funds. Finally, we note again that the Veterans Administration health accounts have been receiving advance appropriations since fiscal year 2010. Both the VA and the IHS provide direct medical care and both are the result of Federal policies. The IHS budget should be afforded the same status as the VA.

SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS (SDPI)

Last year, the administration proposed, with no real explanation of why, that a number of health programs funding be changed from a mandatory to a discretionary status. Among them was the SDPI program. Congress rejected this proposal and we thank you for that. We are relieved that the fiscal year 2020 budget does not repeat this request. We were concerned that discretionary funding could lead to a reduction in funding for this critical program which has demonstrated good results in Indian Country. The current SDPI authorization extends through fiscal year 2019 and we hope that the authorization can be made permanent and at an increased funding level of \$200 million or higher. A permanent reauthorization with mandatory annual funding of \$200 million would allow us to recruit and retain personnel to deliver badly-needed services to more of our members.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns and requests of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe. I would be happy to provide any other additional information as requested by the subcommittee.

[This statement was submitted by Charlene Nelson, Tribal Chairwoman.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES OF THE DUCK VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning the fiscal year 2020 budget for the BLM, BIA, and IHS. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes are grateful for this subcommittee's long standing support of Indian Tribes and for sharing its understanding of Indian Country with your Senate colleagues.

As Congress has done for fiscal year 2019, and for each year of the current administration, we ask that the subcommittee reject the administration's ill-conceived fiscal year 2020 budget, which calls for unwarranted reductions of 14 percent for the Department of the Interior and the programs critical to Tribes in the Office of Indian Programs (OIP). If enacted the budget would cause great harm to the Duck Valley Indian Reservation and to most Native Americans who, more than most Americans, rely heavily on Federal appropriations across multiple Federal agencies, not just Interior and DHHS. We encourage this subcommittee to build on the increases in the fiscal year 2019 appropriation for these essential Tribal programs.

The Duck Valley Reservation is a large, rural and very remote reservation comprising 450 square miles located on the Nevada and Idaho border. The Reservation is 140 miles south of Boise, Idaho, and 100 miles north of Elko, Nevada. Many of our 2,500 Tribal members make their living as farmers and ranchers, though a number of them are employed by the Tribes. We assume most duties of the BIA and IHS under self-governance compacts, although the BIA continues to provide law enforcement, detention and road maintenance services on our Reservation.

In too many instances, however, our success in program delivery is largely dependent on Federal appropriations which, in turn, determine whether economic and social conditions on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation improve or worsen. While we contribute Tribal resources to these endeavors as best we can, we look to our Federal partner for support. If we fall short in available funding, our Tribal citizens suffer. For that reason, I write to express our Tribes' strong opposition to the President's fiscal year 2020 budget for BIA, IHS, BLM and the other programs funded under the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations that face deep cuts. Our priorities for fiscal year 2020 include:

1. *Increase funding for the BIA Public Safety and Special Initiatives Program.*—The BIA struggles to provide adequate law enforcement on our 450 square mile Reservation. For that reason, we applaud the fiscal year 2019 enacted appropriations levels for Public Safety and Justice totaling \$411 million, and urge the Committee to support sensible increases next year. We reject the administration's unwise proposed cuts to BIA Public Safety funding. We have seen an increase in alcohol and substance abuse and resulting juvenile delinquency on our Reservation. The BIA Western Region has reduced the BIA Law Enforcement Officers serving Duck Valley from eight to three full-time officers. This leaves us short staffed, especially after hours. We request an increase of funding to BIA Criminal Investigations and Police Services to restore our police department to appropriate levels. The BIA Construction budget for fiscal year 2020 is also insufficient to address the pressing need for modern detention facilities and housing for law enforcement and detention personnel.

We are also witnessing an increase in alcohol and substance abuse on our reservation, and resulting juvenile delinquency.

We renew our request for statutory language in the fiscal year 2020 appropriation to make clear that "Law Enforcement Special Initiatives" funds may be used for the purchase or lease temporary trailers or modular units to house personnel associated with law enforcement, corrections, probation, Tribal courts and other professionals serving Tribal communities. For rural communities like Duck Valley, housing is often the linchpin to program success. This request will give us the flexibility we need to use Special Initiatives funding for housing law enforcement and corrections personnel.

2. *Increase BIA Road Maintenance Program funds (Eastern Nevada BIA Roads Program of the Western Regional Office).*—We respectfully ask for at least a \$10 million increase in the BIA Road Maintenance Program for fiscal year 2020 so that the BIA Eastern Nevada Agency Roads Department can purchase a road grader, backhoe, a front-end loader, a D7 Caterpillar dozer, ten-wheel dump truck and other heavy equipment. We appreciate the fiscal year 2019 increase, but it alone will not provide sufficient funds to replace obsolete heavy equipment required for maintenance. It has been over 25 years since BIA sought supplemental funds for one-time heavy equipment purchases for road maintenance. The 1980's blade road grader and backhoe are broken down and parts are difficult to find. The dozer is a 1960's model, and the front-end loader and backhoe are from the 1970's.

Our Region, the BIA Western Region, has the largest percentage of BIA-owned roads at 21 percent. The BIA Eastern Nevada Agency covers the roads maintenance need for the 600 miles of public roads on the Duck Valley Reservation and the road maintenance needs on five other reservations which are hundreds of mile apart throughout northeastern Nevada. The requested increase we request will help our Region tremendously. Road maintenance allows fire trucks and equipment to access fires that occur in the mountains and desert areas of the Duck Valley Reservation, thereby protecting reservation lands and property.

3. *Telecommunications (fiber optics).*—The Tribes continue to need fiber infrastructure over 5 miles for connectivity among Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Tribal Headquarters, Detention Center, Fire Station and the Owyhee Community Health Facility. The health center serves as the Wide Area Network (WAN) hub for the Tribes' and health center's computer network. Connectivity among these facilities and programs would alleviate the long-term monthly recurring cost we pay to an Ethernet Circuit provider (\$96,000 annually). We require \$500,000 in Federal funding to construct new fiber networks and cover construction inspection fees. We urge the subcommittee to increase appropriations within the BIA and IHS budgets so that Duck Valley can improve our telecommunications networks. Education IT is not the only program in need of an upgrade.

4. *IHS.*—The Tribes appreciate the \$266 million increase Congress provided for fiscal year 2019 for the Indian Health Service (IHS), above the fiscal year 2018 level. We seek fiscal year 2020 increases, especially in the area of clinical services, including Purchased/Referred Care and facilities construction. The Tribes continue to support full funding of Contract Support Costs (CSCs) for IHS and BIA, and thank the subcommittee for its work to fully fund these costs without jeopardizing program funding for health services. Our members, like other Native Americans, continue to have a disproportionate disease burden greater than other Americans. We encourage the Subcommittee to continue its bipartisan efforts to raise the health status of Native Americans.

5. *Fund the Owyhee Initiative within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).*—The Owyhee Initiative is a joint effort by ranchers, recreationalists, county and State officials, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to protect known Tribal sacred sites, and to manage and appropriately use public lands in southwestern Idaho. In 2009,

Congress passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, Public Law 111–11. Since 2010, we have worked jointly with BLM to protect cultural resources and increase public understanding and appreciation of these resources as a part of the Cultural Resources Protection Plan authorized by the Owyhee Initiative. Recreational use and encroachment by visitors within the Owyhee River Wilderness Area and other Federal lands continues to increase and threatens important cultural resources.

The BLM's Boise District manages 3 million acres of land in this rough remote area and they have 3–4 Rangers in their entire district. Over the last few years, BLM funding to the Tribes for Tribal Cultural programs have dwindled and ceased. We have had to eliminate the Tribal Chief Ranger position that was critical to protecting culturally significant sites in Owyhee County. For this reason, we oppose the administration's plan to reduce BLM funding for fiscal year 2020 by more than \$150 million below the fiscal year 2019 level.

One-time BLM funding a number of years ago allowed us to purchase two Cessna planes, ATV equipment, a truck, and hire a Chief Ranger to patrol public lands and report violations of cultural and religious sites to BLM officials. One of the two planes is a trainer (Cessna 150) and its engine is beyond its service life per FAA requirements. We work closely with BLM and County officials to coordinate compatible recreation use within BLM lands in Owyhee County, especially within the wilderness areas where we seek to protect cultural resource sites important to our Tribes. The Ranger, Cultural Resources Director, and Tribal Chairman, while on patrols occasionally report wildfires to BLM officials before they cause greater damage to sensitive, remote public lands. These resources are no longer available to us, our program outreach is limited, and the equipment we purchased is now aging and requires replacement.

We seek recurring BLM funds to continue this important work to protect cultural sites and establish a Reserve Ranger Program to engage Tribal youth in cultural and related activities during the summer. It is essential that we hire and train replacement staff, including a pilot, to continue this important work. We need funds to hire an Assistant Director, one adult Tribal Ranger and two part-time Youth Rangers, train a qualified applicant as an additional pilot, purchase ATVs and camp trailers to permit Tribal personnel to remain in the field, and repair the planes to meet FAA regulations. For several years, we requested \$500,000 to construct a hangar at the Owyhee Airport to centralize our operation and increase surveillance flights. We contribute 100 percent of the required budget for our Cultural Resources Director but cannot sustain important cultural resources programs without Federal support. Please increase available BLM and BIA programs to help pay for this important work which helps build self-esteem in our members, especially Tribal youth. It is a wise investment in people.

We support additional funding for BLM Cultural Resources Management and other BLM accounts used to manage and protect archaeological and historic properties on public lands. BLM lands contain the remnants of campsites, villages, hunting blinds and rock inscriptions that tell the story of the Shoshone-Paiute and other Tribes. After speaking with Shoshone-Bannock Tribal officials, together with northern tier Nevada Tribes (including the Te-Moak Bands, Battle Mountain, South Fork, Elko, and Wells) and the Goshute Tribes, we seek BLM funds to form a Tribal work group to spread best practices for cultural resources management and protection that we have learned over decades of experience. Please fund the multi-Tribal task force which can develop strategies for on the ground protection of Native American cultural resources for the Upper Great Basin and High Plateau of the tri-State area of Nevada, Oregon and Idaho.

6. Native Plant Program/Greenhouse.—In cooperation with BLM, the Tribes gather, propagate and make available seed and other native plant materials that are indigenous to the region. Through a series of assistance agreements with BLM, we built three greenhouses and are growing seedlings (including sagebrush and bitterbrush seedlings) for planting on adjacent public lands. This program assists BLM and other agencies in their efforts to restore lands damaged by wildfires with native species and helps employ Tribal members. In prior years, we set as our goal 80,000 containerized grasses and shrub seedlings, together with willow and other riparian plant cuttings and local vegetables for sale and distribution through our "Honor Our Elders" program.

We seek Interior Department appropriations of \$450,000 in fiscal year 2020 to build additional greenhouses and a facility to house equipment to dry, clean and store seed and to hire part-time greenhouse staff for marketing and finances. The Tribes request \$200,000 in each of fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021 for staff and operations to expand our program and be a reliable supplier of native plants and seedlings on BLM-managed public lands.

We thank the subcommittee for its work on behalf of American Indians and Alaska Natives. We urge the subcommittee to build on its fiscal year 2019 budget for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to meet Tribal health and safety needs that strengthen our community in fiscal year 2020 and beyond.

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley Indian Reservation thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding our funding needs.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SKOKOMISH TRIBE OF WASHINGTON STATE

The Skokomish Tribe would like to thank the subcommittee for the opportunity to present written testimony on the fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the Interior Department, Indian Health Service (IHS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Skokomish Indian Tribe is responsible for providing essential governmental services to the residents of the Skokomish Indian Reservation. We are a rural community located at the base of the Olympic Peninsula with a population of over 2,000 people, including approximately 740 Tribal members.

The Tribe provides Education, Healthcare services, Housing, Public Safety, and Social Services. We also have one of the premier Tribal Natural Resources programs in the country. Thus, adequate Federal funds are critical to the Tribe's ability to address the extensive unmet needs of our community. An area of overall concern is that the Tribe's Self-Governance compact has not received a programmatic increase in years. Consequently, while we are expected to do more with these programs, we are not provided any increases in funding to do this work.

I. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Law Enforcement.—The Skokomish Department of Public Safety (SDPS) provides 24/7 law enforcement services for the Tribe. SDPS is responsible for patrolling and enforcing justice both within the Tribe's 5,300-acre Reservation, and throughout the Tribe's 2.2 million-acre Treaty area where the Tribe has Treaty-protected hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

There are 700 plus square miles of ocean and 7 plus miles of river to patrol. During harvest season, Tribal fishermen are often confronted by non-Tribal individuals. There are active attempts to interfere with fishing. Many times, with the resources available, SDPS can only be reactive. Today, 7 full-time officers and 1 part-time officer are available for day-to-day patrol duties. Consequently, individual officers are spread far too thin over 10 hour shifts and often work alone over this vast area.

This staffing level exposes both community members in need of assistance and SDPS officers to increased risk. Constant adjustments to the duty roster create coverage gaps where no officers are on duty. These gaps range from as little as 2 hours to as many as 12 hours. Unfortunately, this is reality for SDPS. To meet mandated responsibilities, staffing must be increased for the SDPS.

Like other communities, narcotics and its related issues are a priority. The impact on our community has been devastating. However, staffing limitations make it very difficult to conduct proactive drug operations and investigations. As a result, SDPS have had to rely on the Sheriff's Office Narcotics Team which is now disbanded due to budget cuts at the county level.

With the limited amount we receive as a self-governance Tribe, we have to use Tribal funds to hire the 5 officers who we use for regular patrol and 2 who are responsible for natural resource enforcement. The Tribe urges the Committee to appropriate additional funding for criminal investigations and police services. The BIA has requested essentially level funding in this program when the need throughout Indian country is far greater.

Tribal Courts.—For too long the BIA failed to provide funding to Tribes in Public Law 280 States. Recently, Congress recognized this deficiency and provided for the first time to address our need. We would urge Congress to maintain this funding level in fiscal year 2020. The Skokomish Tribal Court handles Civil, Criminal, Indian Child Welfare, and School Attendance cases. The Skokomish Tribal Court appoints attorneys for all people charged with criminal offenses in Tribal Court.

One of our critical judicial dockets is our child welfare cases. As of February 27, 2019, the Tribal Court has 32 (thirty-two) active Child in Need of Care cases and 46 (forty-six) active Guardianship cases. Eight (8) Child in Need of Care cases and 6 (six) Guardianship cases were filed in fiscal year 2018. The Skokomish Tribe set a goal to provide attorneys to low income Tribal Members who are involved in Indian Child Welfare cases. We need increased BIA Tribal court funding to support this effort.

Natural Resources.—The Skokomish Tribe strongly supports increased, Natural Resources funding, which is necessary to foster sustainable stewardship and devel-

opment of natural resources and support our fishing, hunting and gathering rights on and off-Reservation. These resources are essential to our people, who depend on natural resources for their livelihood, not to mention their identity as Indians.

One area of critical concern is fish hatchery cyclical maintenance and fish hatchery operations. This funding is invaluable for supporting the Federal Government's investment in Tribal hatcheries. Most Tribal hatcheries are underfunded and each year brings more decay to the facilities. Adequate funding for hatchery maintenance is imperative to prevent these important pieces of the salmon restoration puzzle from crumbling away. Because of habitat destruction, the only reason we continue to have salmon for Treaty-harvest activities is through the operation of salmon hatcheries. Congress cannot allow the main pillar of this all important Treaty right to take a reduction in funding. We urge Congress to increase funding for this critical program which provides jobs as well as a critical food source—and mainstay of our diet—to our members.

In recent decades, the Tribe has noticed a precipitous drop in the elk populations upon which the Tribe depends for subsistence and ceremonial needs. In 2008, the Tribe was able to cobble together a wildlife program to remedy this problem thanks to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Tribal grant that the Tribe has been successful in obtaining only twice. Unfairly, once a Tribe has received the funding they are automatically placed further down the grant priority list and are less likely to receive the money again. The wildlife program is now partially funded by Timber, Fish, and Wildlife funds with the Tribe scrounging to find the remaining money internally necessary to complete this work, let alone take on new tasks such as the reintroduction of fishers into the Olympia National Forest.

The Tribe needs wildlife program funds not only to support biologists, but additional funding is required to dedicated wildlife enforcement officers who will not only enforce the Tribes' regulations, but ensure that poaching of the wildlife resources does not occur from outside entities who sometimes fail to recognize Tribal Treaty rights. We request additional funds in the amount of \$240,000 so we will have stable funding for a complete wildlife program including a biologist, technician and three wildlife officers. Without a more robust program, the wildlife populations will continue to decline at the current alarming rate.

The Tribe has also been under attack by shellfish growers who blatantly steal the Treaty-protected geoduck, oyster and clam resources in Hood Canal. It is imperative that the Federal Government increase funding so the Tribe may increase its enforcement presence and seek reparations through the courts. As with wildlife, shellfish issues are often overlooked because of the popularity of salmon, but the availability of this equally-important resource to the Tribe is dwindling and action must be taken now to prevent a further decline. We suggest an additional \$250,000 for shellfish management and rights protection in fiscal year 2020. This would allow for additional population surveyors, harvest monitors, and enforcement officers. Shellfish companies and private citizens are gobbling up this limited resource, blocking the Tribe from obtaining its fair share of shellfish. Only by securing these lands will they be preserved in perpetuity for generations to come.

The Skokomish Tribe wants to express support for continued climate change funding. We see its impact on every aspect of our life. For example, due to ocean acidification, shellfish cannot produce a shell, leaving them deformed and non-viable, and in the Hood Canal we have had to close all but ceremonial crab fisheries due to low oxygen levels. It is imperative that funding be provided to focus on the impact of climate change on trust resources.

II. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

We operate a small ambulatory health program with a staff of 27. As a Tribally run clinic, we provide direct care services as well as purchased/referred care. Our health program integrates medical, dental, and behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorder), and we continue to support the integration of these services.

We continue to use the Indian Health Service's Tele-Behavioral Health Center of Excellence for mental health services with limited success. Our data reports show that we have increased patient case-loads for our on-site mental health personnel. We do not have the money available in our limited compact funding to hire additional staff even though there continues to be an increase in need.

We continue to see the effects of heroin use and opioid abuse in all ages at an alarming rate. The Skokomish Tribe struggles to find the resources to adequately address the treatment and long term needs of those members struggling with addiction. We see the need for more long term treatment facilities to address the needs of individuals who can benefit from such treatment programs so that they may continue their journey of wellness far beyond the current 30 to 45-day in-patient treat-

ment process. A short-term stay is often not adequate time to be healed from addiction and our Tribal members, who have no alternate housing, often return to the community only to re-establish their old habits and slip back into addiction.

The Skokomish Tribe is a grantee of the 5-year SAMSHA Native Connections project and its focus on improving mental health services and addressing substance use disorder as a way to prevent suicide has the promise to raise the overall health status of our Tribal members. Our program has been effective through outreach to provide suicide prevention information to the grant required identified group of 10–24 year olds. Based on feedback from this group, we see the increased need for outreach to assist with bullying, “vaping,” “cutting,” and other harmful and dangerous habits.

We support an increase in the small ambulatory facility program for fiscal year 2020 since this is the only IHS funding that Northwest Tribes have been able to access for construction projects due to the current facilities’ priority system that favors larger health programs.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The environment has always been a point of emphasis for Tribes and the Skokomish Tribe is no different. The President’s proposed cut to the EPA would be devastating to the progress already made in keeping the tradition of fishing alive for Skokomish Tribal members. Fishing has been a mainstay for the generations of Tribal members who rely on it as a means to put food on the table. Fish and shellfish are a part of the regular diet for Tribal members and their families. It has been cited in various literature that Coastal indigenous communities eat about 15 times more seafood than the rest of the population. In order to maintain this healthy diet, the fish need to be able to swim in clean water. This large consumption of fish and shellfish has been a reason that the Skokomish Tribe has had one of the lowest rates of diabetes among the Northwest Tribes.

Thank you for the opportunity for the Skokomish Tribe to submit testimony.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

My name is Donna Galbreath and I am the Medical Director of Quality Assurance for the Southcentral Foundation (SCF). SCF is the Alaska Native Tribal health organization designated by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and 11 federally-recognized Tribes—the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Igiugig, Iliamna, Kokhanok, McGrath, Newhalen, Nikolai, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Telida, and Takotna—to provide healthcare services to beneficiaries of the Indian Health Service (IHS) pursuant to a government-to-government contract with the United States under authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), Public Law 93–638. SCF is a two-time recipient of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for health (2011 and 2017).

SCF, through our 2,300 employees, provides critical health services, including pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, Native men’s wellness, dental, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment to over 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian patients. This includes 52,000 people living in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to the north, and 13,000 residents of 55 rural Alaska Native villages. Our service area encompasses over 100,000 square miles, an area the size of Wyoming. More so than any other affiliation of Tribes, Alaska Native people have assumed the broadest responsibilities under the ISDEAA to own and manage healthcare systems which, together with the Alaska Public Health System, serve 150,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people and thousands of non-Native residents in rural Alaska.

I want to thank this subcommittee for its continued leadership in securing significant increases in Federal appropriations for the Indian Health Service. The recent Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019’s increase of total appropriations for IHS to \$5.804 billion, a \$266.4 million increase over the fiscal year 2018 enacted level represents continued movement in the right direction. My remarks today are simple: continue to increase Federal appropriations for IHS programs and services until health disparities between Alaska Native and American Indian people and other Americans are extinguished. At present, IHS per capita spending on healthcare for Alaska Native and American Indian people is about one-third of the average national per capita healthcare spending level. Today, we are also fighting an opioid epidemic which is taking a disproportionate toll on Alaska Native people. As Congress has noted, the opioid epidemic has devastated communities and torn apart families across our country. This is just as true in our communities in Alaska. With

a service population of 65,000, our resources are wholly insufficient in comparison to the crisis.

We are extremely troubled by the current administration's continued comments and actions that seek to undermine the sovereign status of Alaska Native and American Indian Tribes. We therefore ask that the subcommittee reject any efforts by the administration to eliminate or cut appropriations to Indian healthcare programs. Investing in Native healthcare will only improve the health of the Nation's first peoples, and we applaud this subcommittee's commitment to that goal.

1. Reduce the Disparity in Federal Healthcare Expenditures for Alaska Native and American Indian People

We recommend that subcommittee prioritize general program increases which are shared equally by all Tribal programs. We are pleased to see that in fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the IHS, Congress included significant increases shared by all Tribal programs, such as a \$102 million increase for Hospitals and Health Clinics, an \$8 million increase for Indian health professions, a \$2 million increase for Urban Indian Health, and a \$4.1 million increase for Public Health Nursing. We do note, however, that Congress only moderately increased the appropriations for Purchased/ Referred Care by \$2.1 million and did not increase the amounts available for Facilities Maintenance and Improvement, which are critical budget items in need of increased resources. By the estimate of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), IHS funding is only about 1/5 of the total Tribal needs budget of \$30 billion. So long as appropriations for the Indian Health Service reside within the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, this subcommittee will always be challenged to appropriate sufficient funds to address the healthcare disparities that exist between Alaska Native and American Indian people and the rest of the population. We appreciate the subcommittee's efforts to help tackle this ongoing challenge.

2. Continue to Support Increases for Section 105(l) Lease Payments

We recommend that the subcommittee create within the Direct Operations account a new subaccount to pay required Section 105(l) lease payments to Tribes and Tribal organizations that make tribally-owned or leased facilities available for IHS-funded health programs. Even in the face of two Federal court decisions addressing IHS's legal obligation to fund Section 105(l) leases, and the unrelenting challenge we face to deliver health services with insufficient facility space, the administration has repeatedly asked Congress for statutory text, included in the Administrative Provisions concerning the IHS, to legislatively override Section 105(l), and Federal court decisions in favor of Tribes, and insert a "notwithstanding" clause which would make all lease payments by the Secretary entirely discretionary on the part of the IHS. In short, the IHS would secure the right to use Tribal facilities to operate IHS-funded programs without paying us for them. The IHS seeks to memorialize in statutory text its unjustified practice, which they had been doing for years, and to short-fund the Village Built Clinic lease program. The administration's action is so short-sighted and contrary to best practices to well maintain limited health facility space.

We urge the subcommittee to again reject IHS's efforts to repeal a key provision of the ISDEAA through the appropriations process. This subcommittee fully appreciates the challenges we face to build and maintain hospitals and clinics in unforgiving climates. Too often, lack of funds shortens the useful life of these vitally important structures. The cost to replace a hospital or clinic in Alaska is staggering. If Tribes and Tribal organizations are to extend the useful life of hospitals and clinics, retain key healthcare professionals, and improve the quality of health to our Tribal citizens, we must be given the resources to properly operate and maintain existing facilities. Facilities worth having are worth maintaining and worth paying for. If these lease payments cease, the delivery of healthcare in Alaska will suffer another setback.

Also, despite the obligation of the IHS to fully fund 105(l) leases, we have found the IHS to be slow to finalize these leases because they are not given enough money to fund all of the leases they are now clearly required to pay for. We urge you to increase appropriations for Section 105(l) leases.

3. Provide Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

Calls from Tribes and Tribal organizations for advance appropriations for Indian programs, including the Indian Health Service are not new, but the recent 35-day government shutdown has underscored the need for this change. The delays in funding had deeply-felt impacts in Alaska Native and American Indian communities

across the country. As Ranking Member Udall has said: “Because of the unique government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the United States, Native communities . . . across the country are among those hit hardest when the appropriations process” breaks down. We completely agree that “The Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act will offer certainty to Tribes and Federal law enforcement, healthcare, and child welfare services employees working in Indian country . . . [and] . . . make sure the budget process meets [the] Federal trust and treaty obligations going forward.”

Much has been said in this subcommittee, year after year, about how the programs and departments subject to this appropriations process are reflections of the trust relationship the Federal Government has with American Indian and Alaska Native people. The problems that arise from shutdowns and other delays in the context of a *lack* of advance appropriations exacerbate the problems caused by the funding shortfalls and disparities discussed above.

We therefore applaud Ranking Member Udall and other Senators and House Members for their sponsorship of measures in the current Congress to provide advance appropriations for the IHS.

4. Continue to Provide Increases for Behavioral Health Programs

We cannot state strenuously enough how important it is to increase available funds for behavioral health. Alaska Native and American Indian people are disproportionately represented in substance abuse, especially opioid addiction, and suicide statistics. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and confirmed by IHS Chief Medical Officer, Rear Admiral Michael E. Toedt, Alaska Native and American Indian people “had the highest drug overdose death rates in 2015 and the largest percentage increase in the number of deaths over time from 1999–2015 compared to other racial and ethnic groups.” During that time, deaths rose more than 500 percent among Alaska Native and American Indian people. The CDC also found that the suicide rate among Alaska Native people is almost four times the U.S. general population rate and at least six times the national average in some parts of the State.

The recent Consolidated Appropriations Act contained a combined \$17.7 million increase in fiscal year 2019 for the Mental Health and Alcohol and Substance Abuse program (to \$245.5 million), a 5 percent increase over the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. In addition, the measure also includes an increase of \$10 million to combat the opioid epidemic with direction to use the additional funds to create a “Special Behavioral Health Pilot Program modeled after the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.” These are steps in the right direction, and we urge the subcommittee to build on this effort and increase these programs by at least 15 percent above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. Behavioral health funds are critical to our most vulnerable population—our youth. SCF runs several programs that provide mental healthcare for Alaska Native youth which focus on building academic, vocational and leadership skills through culturally-appropriate methods. It is our firm conviction that only by addressing the root causes that drive individuals to drug misuse and addiction—domestic and child abuse, poverty and unemployment—can we heal them.

We also support specific appropriations for an Opioid Prevention, Treatment and Recovery program for Alaska Native and American Indian people. We recommend that these funds be distributed among Tribes and Tribal organizations as additions to our self-governance compacts and contracts. Alaska Native healthcare providers, like SCF, recognize that the size of the opioid and substance abuse problem in Alaska demands resources. However, with insufficient funds to address behavioral health challenges, we cannot reach those who suffer from substance abuse, our military veterans struggling with PTSD, or victims of violent crime. Prevention, education, and timely medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs remain our most potent tools to raise a new generation of Alaska Native people who practice positive, life-affirming behavioral traits and who will, in turn, pass on these life skills to their children and grandchildren.

With our available funds, we established The Pathway Home, a voluntary, comprehensive, and individualized mental health program for adolescents aged 13 to 18 years. The Pathway Home teaches life skills to these Alaska Native youths so that they discontinue harmful behavior. Many of these youths have already experienced childhood trauma or seen family members struggle with drug and alcohol dependency, which puts them at greater risk of turning to drugs and alcohol. The Pathway Home creates a loving and supportive community environment and it is heartwarming to see how proud the graduates of this program are to go back out into the world with these new skills and new hope.

5. Contract Support Costs

With regards to Contract Support Costs, we appreciate Congress' use of an indefinite appropriation. In recent years, we have witnessed the IHS making unilateral policy changes concerning its CSC policy, already an overly complicated process. It requires Tribes to submit additional documentation to IHS and engage in two separate CSC negotiations each year. We urge the subcommittee to direct the agency to simplify its CSC policy and not attempt to reduce the award of CSC funds to Tribes through an unnecessarily complex methodology which diverts our administrative personnel from their primary focus—the efficient and professional delivery of health services.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Southcentral Foundation and the people we serve.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

My name is Charles Clement and I serve as the President/CEO for the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC). I am honored for the opportunity to provide written testimony about SEARHC's priorities for the fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the Indian Health Service, and I thank the subcommittee for the opportunity to do so.

SEARHC is an inter-Tribal consortium of 15 federally-recognized Tribes situated along the southeast panhandle of Alaska. Our service area stretches over 35,000 square miles, and with no roads connecting many of the rural communities we serve, we work hard to provide quality health services to our communities. These services include medical, dental, mental health, physical therapy, radiology, pharmacy, laboratory, nutritional, audiology, optometry and respiratory therapy services. We also provide supplemental social services, substance abuse treatment, health promotion services, emergency medical services, environmental health services and traditional Native healing. We provide these services through a network of community clinics and the Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital located in Sitka, Alaska.

The urgent healthcare needs across Indian Country are well known and the challenges in meeting those needs are heightened in areas like Southeast Alaska where communities are isolated and transportation and facilities costs are high. SEARHC applauds the administration for recognizing these needs by increasing the IHS budget. It is vital that these increases be preserved. But even these increases will not be enough to allow SEARHC and other Tribal organizations to meet the healthcare needs of the people we serve. We will meet these challenges, but to do so we will need your help.

FACILITIES FUNDING

Our greatest need is for increased facilities funding. We have repeatedly reported to this Committee on this topic, and another year of use has only increased those needs. At nearly 70 years old, the Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital is the oldest facility in Alaska and one of the oldest in the Nation. It was constructed toward the end of World War II by the War Department and focused largely on tuberculosis treatment through the 1950s. The hospital is in poor condition and ill-suited to a 21st century model of healthcare dominated by primary and ambulatory care facilities. Replacing or repairing Mt. Edgecumbe should be a priority, together with developing a critical access hospital to serve the Prince of Wales Island communities (including Craig and Klawock).

According to the report the IHS produced as required by this Committee in Report language for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2017, the cost to update SEARHC's facilities alone is \$34 million. The estimated cost to address the inventoried code deficiencies and backlog of maintenance and repairs over the next 10 years is nearly \$80 million. And we are not unique. Estimates place IHS facilities funding needs at well over \$8 billion, a number that keeps rising because IHS lacks sufficient funding to maintain these facilities. In the Report language for the recent Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019, the Committee directed the IHS to work with Tribes and Tribal organizations to assess the updated facilities needs in Alaska as well as provide recommendations for alternative financing options which could help address this crisis. We urge the Committee to continue to push IHS to find solutions that will help us provide care to our patients in appropriate facilities both now and in the future. We do our best to patch the problem, but the bottom line is that without adequate facilities, SEARHC cannot provide adequate health services.

We request the Committee do four things.

- Replace Aging IHS Facilities.*—We need a commitment from Congress to start replacing aging IHS facilities. This will require reordering the current facilities priority list, which was created on a first come, first served basis. All rankings should be based on true need.
- Increase Facilities Funding in the Current Budget Proposal.*—The President's budget proposes to cut funding for facilities programs funding, including a proposed cut of \$77 million for the Health Care Facilities Construction Program. In the context of the massive backlog of facilities needs for SEARHC and the IHS, these proposed cuts are unwise and would only serve to further the facilities construction, replacement, and deferred maintenance crisis. We strongly encourage the Committee to increase the facilities funding in the IHS budget and share Chairwoman Murkowski's concern with the administration's proposed reduction.
- The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) Renovation Program.*—We recommend the Committee provide funding for tribally renovated IHS buildings, pursuant to section 1634 of the IHCIA. The IHCIA allows Tribes to renovate IHS facilities and authorizes IHS to provide staffing and equipment for the newly renovated structure. However, Congress has never funded this program. We strongly urge the Committee to realize the promise of this program by providing \$10 million to fund it. We would be delighted to do an Alaska demonstration project for this new initiative.
- Joint Venture Projects.*—The JV project provides IHS funds to staff facilities built with Tribal funds. SEARHC submitted a proposal in the most recent Joint Venture project funding round. Despite receiving a very high score, our proposal to build a facility on Prince of Wales Island was not selected. And in fact, of the 37 applications submitted, only 13 were put on a list to eventually receive funding. The fact that qualified projects were not selected is evidence that the need for such facilities far outstrips IHS's ability to enter into these agreements.

Our situation is a good example. Currently, our hospital in Sitka serves people living as far away as Klawock. Travel to Sitka requires a lengthy combination of automobile, ferry, and airplanes and takes at least a day and often is an overnight trip. If weather is bad, as it often is in Southeast Alaska, it can take even longer. The only alternative are costly air ambulance flights. We proposed to construct a Critical Access Hospital in Klawock. This would have strengthened the primary care service in the area, while for the first time also offering complex diagnostic services and acute and emergency care to one of the remotest, most rural areas of the Nation. Despite this substantial need for these services, our project was rejected.

In order to provide funding for this project, as well as the other JV projects that were not selected in the last round, we urge this Committee to support IHS's effort to enter into more Joint Venture Agreements.

ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

The 35-day government shutdown has provided yet another example of why Indian and Alaska Native programs must be held outside of regular appropriations processes that are subject to the whims yearly political processes. SEARHC strongly supports advance appropriations for the IHS. The delays in funding, and the lack of Federal personnel and support, during the shutdown had deeply-felt impacts in Alaska Native and American Indian communities across the country. As Subcommittee Vice Chairman Udall has said, "Because of the unique government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the United States, Native communities in New Mexico and across the country are among those hit the hardest" during a shutdown, disrupting the delivery of essential government services to Tribal members. These sorts of impacts come each shutdown, CR, or other funding issue, but the recent shutdown should be a wake-up call for Congress regarding the need to act on this issue.

SEARHC therefore strongly supports efforts by Vice Chairman Udall and other Members of the Senate to provide advance appropriations for IHS.

105(L) LEASES

Two recent Federal court decisions have addressed IHS's legal obligation to fund Section 105(l) leases. Even so, the administration has repeatedly asked Congress for statutory text to legislatively override Section 105(l), and the courts, and insert a "notwithstanding" clause which would make all lease payments by the Secretary entirely discretionary on the part of the IHS. In short, the IHS would secure the right to use Tribal facilities to operate IHS-funded programs without paying for them. IHS had been doing for years by short-funding Village Built Clinic leases, and Con-

gress should not let them continue. We urge the Committee to again reject IHS's efforts to repeal a key provision of the ISDEAA through the appropriations process.

In addition, and just as important, we urge the Committee to provide additional funding for the 105(l) lease program so that there are sufficient appropriations to fund the all of the leases IHS is now required to fully pay for.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

In recent years, much progress has been made on the issue of contract support costs, thanks in large part to this Committee. We appreciate the Committee's use of an indefinite appropriation for IHS contract support costs in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2019, and we urge the Committee to do so again for fiscal year 2020. However, the IHS has repeatedly over-complicated the process for contract support costs, adding burdens on SEARHC and other providers which distract, delay, and otherwise hinder our ability to spend our time and resources where they belong—on patient care. We ask that you direct the IHS to simplify its CSC policy, rather than attempting to reduce the award of CSC funds through overly-complex methodologies.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Committee on SEARHC's priorities.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

On behalf of the Squaxin Island Tribal Leadership and citizens, it is an honor to provide our funding priorities and recommendations for the fiscal year 2020 Budgets for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS). We ask that this Committee supports our historical trust and treaty relationship with the United States and honor the fiduciary obligations that were a part of the negotiations with our Tribal Leaders. We ask that this Committee:

1. Exempts Tribal program funding throughout the Federal Government from future sequestrations, rescissions and disproportionate cuts;
2. Ensures stable Federal funding for essential Tribal services by supporting the Indian Programs Advanced Appropriations Act for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education and the Indian Health Service; and,
3. Supports the Special Diabetes Program for Indians reauthorization at \$200 million annually for 5 years. Efforts by the administration to change the funding from mandatory to discretionary spending must require Tribal consultation before any changes occur.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE Specific Requests

1. \$500,000 Shellfish Management Program—BIA
2. \$3.0 Million Increase for Northwest Indian Treatment Center (NWITC) Residential Program in IHS

REGIONAL Requests and Recommendations

1. \$110 million for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
2. Supports the Regional Budget Requests of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)

NATIONAL Requests and Recommendations—Bureau of Indian Affairs

1. BIA Rights Protection—Increase funding to \$52 million for the BIA Rights Protection Implementation
2. Fully Fund Fixed Costs and Tribal Pay Costs
3. Increase Tribal Base Funding (instead of through grants)

NATIONAL Requests and Recommendations—Indian Health Service

1. *IHS mandatory funding (maintaining current services).*—Provide a total of \$6.4 billion for the Indian Health Service in fiscal year 2020, a 33 percent increase over the fiscal year 2016 planning base
2. *\$150 million for Opioid Funding.*—Increase funding and include Tribal set asides in any funding decisions to States
3. *Purchased and Referred Care (PRC).*—Provide an increase of \$474.4 million
4. *\$158 Million for Mental Health.*—For behavioral health services to increase the ability of Tribes to further develop innovative and culturally appropriate prevention and treatment programs that are so greatly needed in Tribal communities.

Squaxin Island Tribe Background

We are native people of South Puget Sound and descendants of the maritime people who lived and prospered along these shores for untold centuries. We are known as the People of the Water because of our strong cultural connection to the natural beauty and bounty of Puget Sound going back hundreds of years. The Squaxin Island Indian Reservation is located in southeastern Mason County, Washington and the Tribe is a signatory to the 1854 Medicine Creek Treaty. We were one of the first 30 federally-recognized Tribes to enter into a Compact of Self-Governance with the United States.

Our treaty-designated reservation, Squaxin Island, is approximately 2.2 square miles of uninhabited forested land, surrounded by the bays and inlets of southern Puget Sound. Because the Island lacks fresh water, the Tribe has built its community on roughly 26 acres at Kamilche, Washington purchased and placed into trust. The Tribe also owns 6 acres across Pickering Passage from Squaxin Island and a plot of 36 acres on Harstine Island, across Peale Passage. The total land area including off-reservation trust lands is 1,715.46 acres. In addition, the Tribe manages roughly 500 acres of Puget Sound tidelands.

The Tribal government and our economic enterprises constitute the largest employer in Mason County with over 1,250 employees. The Tribe has a current enrollment of 1,040 and an on-reservation population of 426 living in 141 homes. Squaxin has an estimated service area population of 2,747; a growth rate of about 10 percent, and an unemployment rate of about 30 percent (according to the BIA Labor Force Report).

Squaxin Island Tribe Specific Requests / Justifications

1. \$500,000—Shellfish Management—BIA

The Squaxin Island Tribe faces an ongoing budget deficit to maintain and operate the shellfish program at its current level of operation—a level that leaves 20 percent of treaty-designated State lands and 80–90 percent of private tidelands unharvested due to lack of funding. To address this shortfall and enable effective growth and development of the program, an annual minimum increase of \$500,000 is requested. Shellfish have been a mainstay for the Squaxin Island people for thousands of years and are important today for subsistence, economic and ceremonial purposes. The Tribe's right to harvest shellfish is guaranteed by the 1854 Medicine Creek Treaty. Today, we are unable to fully exercise our treaty rights due to lack of Federal support for our shellfish management program.

2. \$3 Million Increase to the Base Funding for the Northwest Indian Treatment Center (NWITC) Residential Program—IHS

“D3WXbi Palil” meaning “Returning from the Dark, Deep Waters to the Light”

The Squaxin Island Tribe has been operating the Northwest Indian Treatment Center (NWITC) since 1994. The Center, given the spiritual name “D3WXbi Palil” meaning “Returning from the Dark, Deep Waters to the Light”, is a residential chemical dependency treatment facility designed to serve Native Americans who have chronic relapse patterns related to unresolved grief and trauma. NWITC serves adult clients from Tribes located in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska. We facilitate Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)—suboxone and vivitrol injections which are cutting edge components of opioid addictions. Since the original congressional set-aside in the IHS budget for alcohol and substance abuse treatment for residential facilities and placement contracts with third-party agencies in 1993, NWITC has not received an adequate increase in the base IHS budget. With the well-documented nation-wide rise in prescription opioid and heroin abuse, it is more critical than ever to increase the NWITC's annual base in order to sustain the current services to the Tribes of the Northwest. AI/AN face opioid related fatalities three times the rate of non-Natives.

An increase of \$3.0 million would restore lost purchasing power, ensure adequate baseline operating funds and allow NWITC to continue to meet the needs of those who are struggling to recovery and return to their families and Native communities.

NATIONAL Requests and Recommendations—Bureau of Indian Affairs

1. *BIA Rights Protection—Increase funding to \$52 million.*—This Subactivity Account has a clear and direct relationship with the Federal trust obligation to Tribes. This program ensures compliance with Federal court orders by implementing effective Tribal self-regulatory and co-management systems. The benefits of these programs accrue not only to Tribes, but to the larger communities

as well. In addition, this program supports implementation of the United States/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.

2. *Fully Fund Fixed Costs and Tribal Pay Costs.*—Partial funding or failing to fund Pay Costs for Tribes has devastated Tribal communities by causing critical job losses. Over 900 Tribal jobs have been lost and an estimated 300 more jobs will be permanently lost on an annual basis if 100 percent Pay Costs are not provided. The Tribal losses are being further exacerbated by recent projections of costs that have been significantly underestimated. We strongly urge full funding of fixed costs and Tribal pay costs.
3. *Increase Tribal Base Funding (instead of through grants).*—Grant funding, particularly inside the BIA, is not consistent with the intent of Tribal self-determination. Tribal leaders have grown increasingly frustrated by the increase in Indian Affairs funding offer through grants. Allocating new funds via grants marginalizes and impedes Tribal Self-Determination and Self-Governance. Provide increases via Tribal base funding instead of through grants to Tribal governments

NATIONAL Requests and Recommendations—Indian Health Service

1. *IHS mandatory funding (maintaining current services)*—Provide a total of \$6.4 billion for fiscal year 2020, a 33 percent increase over 2016 planning phase.—If these mandatory requirements are not funded, Tribes have no choice but to cut health services, which further reduces the quantity and quality of healthcare services available to AI/AN citizens.
2. *\$150 million for Opioid Funding.*—Increase funding and include Tribal set asides in any funding decisions to States. Addressing the opioid epidemic is a nationwide priority. American Indians and Alaska Natives face opioid related fatalities three times the rate on non-Indians. Tribal governments must be included in major agency-wide funding decisions, including to States, to treat and prevent opioid misuse.
3. *Purchased and Referred Care (PRC)*—Provide an increase of \$474.4 million.—The Purchased/Referred Care program pays for urgent and emergent and other critical services that are not directly available through IHS and Tribally-operated health programs when no IHS direct care facility exists, or the direct care facility cannot provide the required emergency or specialty care, or the facility has more demand for services than it can currently meet.

NATIONAL Requests and Recommendations

Squaxin Island Tribe supports the National Budget Requests of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the National Indian Health Board (NIHB).

Thank you for accepting the fiscal year 2020 budget requests and recommendations for the Squaxin Island Tribe.

[This statement was submitted by Ray Peters, Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

I am Ira Taken Alive, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The Tribe appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies concerning the Tribe's fiscal year 2020 funding needs financed through appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and Indian Health Service (IHS).

I want to begin by telling you a little bit about the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and our relationship with the United States which is based on the Treaties that we signed in 1851 and 1868. These Treaties underscore the ongoing promises and obligations of the United States to the Tribe, and our testimony is submitted with those promises and obligations in mind. To that end, the Tribe wishes to express its support for Ranking Member Udall's legislation to provide advance funding for the BIA and IHS. Tribal programs should not suffer because of the political challenges in Washington, D.C. All too often, the success or failure of Tribal programs are dependent on Federal appropriations.

Despite the Tribe's best efforts, our unemployment rate remains above 50 percent. In fact, over 40 percent of Indian families on our Reservation live in poverty—more than triple the average U.S. poverty rate. The disparity is worse for children, as 52 percent of the Reservation population under age 18 lives below poverty, compared to 16 percent and 19 percent in North and South Dakota, respectively.

These statistics are daunting. They can leave our people, especially our children without hope, so I want to share with you, just one story of a person who did some-

thing to give our children hope. It is my story. I am telling you this story not because I want praise or thanks, but because I want you to know that the programs that you fund in the budgets of the BIA and the IHS make a difference and your work in deciding which programs of the BIA, BIE and IHS to increase and expand is critical to the future success of Indian communities and must continue.

In the fall of 2014, I started a cheer team at my former high school in McLaughlin, SD. I had to struggle to find five girls who wanted to participate and who could commit to the work that it took to actively participate on a school cheer team.

With the support of another rural small school, the Newall School, the girls worked hard and learned the routines. They kept their grades up and they committed themselves to the daily practices. Our goal at the start of the year was that if our girls' high school basketball team went to the State tournament, we would be in position to win the coveted South Dakota Spirit of Six Award. This award is in memory of a cheer team who tragically died in a plane crash on their way to State.

Well, like a Hollywood movie, my girls made it to the State championship tournament. To win the Spirit of Six Award, the team was judged at all times, whether they were cheering or not.

Just to remind you, these young women had rarely left the Reservation, let alone competed on a State-wide stage with crowds as large as 2,000 people and live TV coverage. To be in the running, they had to be poised, respectful and joyful at all times. I am still so proud to say that bucking the odds, the first year cheer team from McLaughlin, SD won the award.

I cannot tell you the importance to these young women and to the community of McLaughlin, SD to have this high caliber positive recognition of the hard work and dedication the girls from Standing Rock exhibited.

This story demonstrates that it is community based programs like this that can make such an important difference in children's lives and positively affect their future development.

This story also demonstrates that these programs must be developed in close consultation with the Tribal governments and the communities that they are intended to serve. Moreover, these programs must be intertwined with one another. A person needs help at school, after school, in her home, and when she wants to leave home for higher education and other opportunities.

This is why creating a new initiative like the mental health/substance abuse pilot program, based on the Special Diabetes for Indians Program, is such a good idea. A pilot program of dedicated, targeted funds for Tribes to develop culturally appropriate tools to address substance abuse and mental health needs in their communities will put Tribes in the driver seat to combat these challenges and create positive futures for Native children.

Community based programs make a real difference in the lives of children and play an important role in helping them success in future. Programs that build self-esteem in Tribal youth, and which provide them with important coping skills, are programs that will have a lasting impact on them throughout their lives. As a Tribal leader, school board member, and cheer team coach, I can tell you that this is the best way for governments to deliver services to their citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

PREPARED STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES CIVIL RIGHTS GRANT

May 28, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Chairman Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510	The Honorable Tom Udall Ranking Member Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
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Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall,

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation, Hispanic Access Foundation, Latinos in Heritage Conservation, and the undersigned 43 groups and

66 individuals encourage the Committee on Appropriations to support the Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grant with a \$30 million appropriation for fiscal year 2020.

Funded through the National Park System's Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grant program would use non-tax payer dollars to partner with States and Tribes to help save important places in our communities. The HPF provides matching grants to State and Tribal historic preservation offices to support surveys of historic resources, training, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, and grants to local jurisdictions. HPF was established in 1977, is currently authorized at \$150 million per year, and is funded by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues, not tax dollars. These funds are spent locally on preservation projects, with selection decisions made at the State level. In short, it makes preservation possible.

Historic preservation projects assisted by grants like the existing African American Civil Rights Grant Program generate billions of dollars in heritage tourism annually, while helping public and private partners tell unique and powerful stories of the African American struggle for equality in the 20th Century.

The expansion of the program to the Underrepresented Communities Civil Rights Grants will increase the program's impact by not only documenting, interpreting, and preserving the sites and stories related to a more inclusive story of American history, but also increasing the audience appeal for such projects. This proposed program expansion is an opportunity to multiply the economic impact of the existing program across the United States.

A review by the National Historic Landmarks Committee found that less than 8 percent (8 percent) of designated landmarks specifically represented the stories of Native Americans, African Americans, American Latinos, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, women, LGBTQ, and other underrepresented groups. There are few sites associated with these groups despite their long histories in the United States from the earliest settlement of the country to the economic development of the West to the desegregation of public schools in the 20th century and political influence in the 21st.

Including women, these groups make up more than 50 percent of the U.S. population. Representation matters; this Federal grant will allow us to narrate our stories, which may be misrepresented or otherwise ignored within a larger society, with accuracy and dignity. This promotes understanding and compassion and has the power to lessen social inequalities.

All Americans should be able to see themselves, their history, and their potential in both our collective story and our national landscape. As you consider fiscal year 2020 funding levels, we hope that you will continue the broad bi-partisan support for this National Park Service grant program that is vitally important to preserving so many more of our great American stories.

Sincerely,

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation
Hispanic Access Foundation
Latinos in Heritage Conservation

Co-Signed by:

ORGANIZATIONS

2021	Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
African American Community, Cultural, and Educational Society	Filipino American National Historical Society—Metro New York City Chapter
Alamo City Democracy Project	Filipino American National Historical Society
American Anthropological Association	GLBT Historical Society
American Association for State and Local History	Hispanic Federation
American Cultural Resources Association	Indiana Landmarks
Asian American Studies Department and Center, UCLA	Landmarks Illinois
Coalition for American Heritage	Latino Outdoors
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation	National LGBTQ Center for the Arts
Curba	National Parks Conservation Association
Chispa, League of Conservation Voters	National Trust for Historic Preservation
Documents of Resistance	Native American Land Conservancy
	Native Womens Wilderness

Nature For All	The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
OCA Greater Chicago	Turning Wheel—University of San Diego
Pratt Institute	UC Davis Library/Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies
Preservation Chicago	University of California, Riverside Public History Program
Preservation Texas	University of Houston
Society for American Archaeology	University of Maryland, College Park
Society for Historical Archaeology	UT Austin
Spanish Heritage Foundation of Riverside	Westside Preservation Alliance
St. Mary's University	
Tataviam Land Conservancy	

INDIVIDUALS

Stuart Berman	Mabel Menard
Cathie Bond	Ward Miller
Tanya Bowers	Jane Montanaro
Caroline Calderon	Helen Mora
Antonia Castaneda, PhD	Beatrice Moreno
Marsh Davis	Sehila Mota Casper
Rachel Delgado	Ron Muriera
Lisa DiChiera	Adam Natenshon
John Dichtl	Kim Orbe
xenia diente	Gregg Orton
Doreen Duran	Alberto Pulido
Maria Espinosa	Ray Rast, PhD
Henry Flores	Paul ruiz
Moisés García	RoxanneRyce-Paul
John Gonzalez	Graciela Isabel Sánchez
Jaylyn Gough	Allan Jason Sarmiento
Sarah Zenaida Gould, PhD	Erica Schultz
Catherine Gudis, PhD	Mary Lu Seidel
Estella Habal, PhD	Antonio Serna
Lawana Holland-Moore	Carol Shull
Celeste Hong	Monica Sosa
Judy Jauregui	Alan Spears
Rita Jirasek	Roberto Tejada
Nicole Johnson	Evan Thompson
Lewis Kasner	Edward Torrez
Alvina Lai	Joseph Trujillo
Kristi Lin	Sharon Trujillo-Kasner
Kelly Lizarraga	Karen Umemoto, PhD
Mary Losh	Luis Villa
Jose Madrid	Bill Watanabe
Michelle Magalong, PhD	Shayne Watson
Magda Mankel	Lily Anne Welty Tamai
Nancy Melendez	

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE URBAN FORESTS COALITION

May 17, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Chairman House Committee on Appropriations Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	The Honorable Tom Udall Ranking Member House Committee on Appropriations Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
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Dear Chairman McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce, and Honorable Committee Members:

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is comprised of more than 35 national organizations and corporations representing hundreds of thousands of professionals—and millions of supporters—who care for and support sustainable trees and green infrastructure in our Nation's communities. We thank you for the fiscal year 2019 funding levels, especially the increased funding for the USDA Forest

Service Urban and Community Forestry program. Collectively, we urge support for several programs across various agencies under the Interior Subcommittee's jurisdiction that support urban and community forests and green infrastructure.

Our Nation's urban and community forests impact over 190 million Americans and are vital to creating and maintaining healthy, livable communities of all sizes by providing many scientifically proven social, economic, and environmental benefits to people. The ability to reduce air pollution and stormwater runoff, decrease energy consumption, mitigate the heat island effect, improve human health have directly or indirectly reduced costs in communities by millions of dollars. The collective value and benefits of community trees equals over \$10 billion nationwide. With a projected 394 million Americans living in urbanized areas by 2050, investing in trees and better ways to grow trees to create livable communities needs to happen now.

The Federal support and leadership through the USDA Forest Service and over-arching Urban and Community Forestry program leverages funds ranging from two to five times for each dollar invested in projects and grants. The Federal "seed" money is often the key to implementing these programs at the State and local level. Most smaller communities do not have the resources to practice urban tree management. The Federal funds utilized by the States provides the resources to initiate their programs to manage the trees in their communities. These same funds set the bar for urban tree management in larger communities and at the State level, reducing redundancy and allowing consistency of care across the Nation. The cumulative benefit to the country from each community achieves a national improvement to be recognized at the Federal level.

USDA Forest Service: State and Private Forestry

—Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF)

U&CF directly assists State government, nonprofit organizations, and partners that manage and steward our Nation's urban and community forests. Working with the State forestry agencies, the program provides technical, financial, research, and educational support and services to local government, nonprofit organizations, community groups, educational institutions, and Tribal governments.

In fiscal year 2018, U&CF assisted 7,951 urban and rural communities and nearly 206 million people in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and affiliated Pacific Island Nations. U&CF is a high-impact program and a smart investment, as Federal support is often leveraged 2:1 (or in many cases significantly more) by States and partner organizations. There are 9,121 communities that have adopted and can present documentation of local/State-wide ordinances or policies that focus on community trees. In fiscal year 2017, 33 percent of the communities served were rural. U&CF engages citizens in cities and towns, brings together diverse partners with public and private resources, and demonstrates that Federal investment can have huge and lasting impacts on communities of all sizes.

SUFC is deeply concerned by past proposals to defund the U&CF program. Zeroing out this important program would completely erode the capacity that has been developed in cities and towns of all sizes and jeopardize many local public and private partnerships and collaborative projects where Federal assistance is essential. SUFC recommends the Urban and Community Forestry Program be funded at \$35 million in fiscal year 2020.

—Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR)

National priority Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) projects are a key way that States, in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service and other partners, address critical forest priorities across the landscape. LSR projects focus on the most critical priorities identified in each State's Forest Action Plan and on achieving national goals as laid out in the State and Private Forestry national themes. The competitive grant process ensures innovative approaches to restoration work are proposed and priority is given to projects that further the advancement of State Forest Action Plans. As a result, LSR contributes to achieving results across the landscape and making meaningful local, regional, and national impacts. SUFC recommends funding the Landscape Scale Restoration program at \$20 million in fiscal year 2020.

—Community Forests and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)

CFP has made substantial progress in preserving forests by increasing opportunities for Americans to connect with forests in their own communities and fostering new public-private partnerships. Since its first grant round in fiscal year 2012, CFP has supported 51 community forest projects across 21 States and ter-

ritories and leveraged more than twice the Federal investment. Thanks to these partnerships, more than 12,300 acres of private forestlands—much of it in rural areas—have been, or soon will be, acquired to create new—or expand existing—community forests. SUFC recommends an increase in funds to \$5 million in fiscal year 2020.

—Forest Health Management

Forests across the country are threatened by increasing numbers of insects and disease pathogens introduced from abroad and entering this country through urban ports. As a result, municipal governments across the U.S. are spending an estimated \$2.4 billion each year to remove trees on city property killed by non-native pests. Homeowners are spending an additional \$1 billion to remove and replace trees on their properties and are absorbing an additional \$1.5 billion in reduced property values. The pests often spread from the cities to rural and wildland forests, where the full spectrum of forest values is at risk. This program provides essential expertise and assistance to State and municipal agencies and private landowners working to prevent these pests' spread and minimize the damage they cause. We recommend \$48 million for cooperative lands programs under the Forest Health Management program in fiscal year 2020.

USDA Forest Service: Forest and Rangeland Research

SUFC urges the subcommittee to provide \$315 million for the overall R&D program for fiscal year 2020.

—Urban and Community Forestry Research

The Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) program provides critical financial support for urban forestry research activities to develop information and tools for understanding conditions and trends in our Nation's urban and community forests. USDA Forest Service researchers have made huge strides in recent years through collaborative efforts to develop new tools, such as i-Tree, for mapping current tree cover, assessing trends, developing local strategies, and building greater understanding of the environmental, economic, and social services that trees and forests provide to communities. We urge the subcommittee to continue including language in Interior Appropriations reports encouraging the USDA Forest Service to maintain a strong and vibrant urban forest research program.

—Non-Native Insects and Diseases Research

Among the major research challenges facing R&D is the destruction of our Nation's urban forests caused by non-native insects and diseases. People who value urban forests join supporters of rural and wildland forests in depending on USDA Forest Service R&D to develop better tools for pest detection and protective strategies, including chemical and biological controls and breeding of trees resistant to pests. The most recent data available to us indicate that USDA Forest Service research stations allocate only about \$3 million for research on non-native insects and diseases—less than 1 percent of its total budget. In the absence of a budget line item for invasive species research, we urge the subcommittee to include language in its Interior Appropriations report encouraging the USDA Forest Service to increase funding for research targeting non-native insects and pathogens.

—Urban Forests in Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

The collaborative efforts between SUFC and the USDA Forest Service brought urban forest data into the mainstream of the agency's national data-collection program. FIA has long provided the Nation's forest census, but it had not historically included urban areas because of its definition of forests. We ask the subcommittee to encourage the USDA Forest Service to continue and strengthen its efforts to integrate urban forest data into FIA so that its critical data-collection efforts address all of our Nation's forests, including our current and expanding 138 million acres of urban forest land.

Environmental Protection Agency

—Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF)

Green infrastructure, including urban forests, can be a cost-effective and resilient approach to managing stormwater. The use of green infrastructure for stormwater control also provides many community co-benefits enumerated above. SUFC is pleased that EPA supports the use of green infrastructure for stormwater management and that green infrastructure is an eligible use under

the CWSRF—a critical financing program for local communities investing in water infrastructure. SUFC supports robust funding for CWSRF, along with efforts to expand the use of green infrastructure to 20 percent to meet Clean Water Act goals.

The National Park Service

—Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLPP)

The State and Local Assistance Program provides matching grants to States and localities for protection and development of parks and recreation resources. It is the primary Federal investment tool to ensure that families have easy access to urban forests in parks and open space, as well as neighborhood recreation resources. This nationally competitive program complements the existing State and local assistance program by creating opportunities for outdoor play while developing or enhancing outdoor recreation partnerships in cities. SUFC requests robust funding for the State and local assistance program, which includes \$20 million for ORLPP in fiscal year 2020.

Supporting SUFC Members

Alliance for Community Trees	National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP)
American Forests	National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
American Planning Association (APA)	National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
American Society of Consulting Arborists	OPEI Foundation
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)	Professional Grounds Maintenance Society
Arbor Day Foundation (ADF)	The Davey Foundation
Bartlett Tree Foundation	The Nature Conservancy
Center for Invasive Species Prevention	Society of American Foresters (SAF)
Corazon Latino	Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA)
Green Infrastructure Center	Student Conservation Association (SCA)
International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)	Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)
Keep America Beautiful (KAB)	TREE Fund
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)	Trees Forever
National Association of Counties (NACo)	The Trust for Public Land
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)	Water Environment Federation (WEF)
	Wildlife Habitat Council

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony to the subcommittee regarding our priorities for fiscal year 2020 concerning appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS). We are grateful for this subcommittee's bipartisanship reflected in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019's rejection of previous calls from the administration for deep cuts to Alaska Native and American Indian programs and services. We appreciate the positive results the subcommittee has made possible in Alaska, and we ask the subcommittee to build on its successes realized in the fiscal year 2019 budget when deciding on funding for BIA and IHS programs for fiscal year 2020.

TCC is a non-profit intertribal consortium of 37 federally-recognized Indian Tribes and 41 communities located across Alaska's interior. TCC serves approximately 18,000 Alaska Natives in Fairbanks where TCC headquarters is located, and in the rural villages in Alaska's vast interior, located along the 1,400 mile Yukon River and its tributaries.

To give you an idea of that great distance, Washington, D.C. is only around 1,000 miles from Kansas City, Missouri, which Senator Blunt represents. There's a lot of country between Washington, D.C. and Kansas City—and TCC's region is much larger than that area. Imagine how our 41 Alaska Native communities feel in Alaska's vast Interior. These villages are remote, often inaccessible by car. Alaska Native residents must overcome many challenges to sustain healthy communities, educate their children, ensure their health and safety, and care for their elders and themselves. This subcommittee, better than most, understands the great unmet needs in healthcare, public safety, education and job training faced by Alaska Na-

tive communities which struggle to provide essential services to maintain their members and culture.

Not too long ago, Congressman Cole of Oklahoma laid out the stark truth; 2016 Federal per capita healthcare spending on Alaska Natives and American Indians, compared to Federal spending on Medicare, Veterans, and Medicaid recipients was “at the absolute bottom, and not by a little bit, but by a lot.” The figures don’t lie: \$2,834 in per capita spending for IHS medical care expenditures per person versus \$12,744 in Medicare spending for 2016. That is about four and-a-half times the per capita expenditure level by the IHS. Federal appropriations for the IHS would need to more than triple just to match the per capita national health spending level of \$9,990 per person. The Congressman could not understand the basis for the administration proposed cuts to IHS funding the administration proposed that year and neither could we. He stated that a \$300 million cut in IHS funding was “not defensible or acceptable.”

Recent increases have helped stop the healthcare gap from widening into even more of a chasm, but the underlying concerns remain.

For this reason, TCC supports the administration’s proposed increase of \$140 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted amount for IHS, but more is needed. TCC supports the recommendation of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) to fully fund the IHS through the enactment of a true “needs based budget,” phased in over 12 years, with at least a 36 percent increase (to \$7 billion) in IHS funding for fiscal year 2020, as well as providing advance appropriations for the IHS. So long as the IHS budget is part of the Interior appropriation, such increases will remain our great collective challenge. In addition, the subcommittee should continue to reject the administration’s calls to eliminate funding for the Health Education program and cut \$39 million from the Community Health Representative program.

Nonetheless, we urge the Committee to continue its bipartisan work and increase fiscal year 2020 appropriations above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level to reduce continued healthcare disparities between Alaska Native and American Indians and non-Natives. According to the IHS:

- Alaska Natives and American Indians born today have a life expectancy that is 4.4 years less than the U.S. all races population (73.7 years to 78.1 years);
- Alaska Natives and American Indians continue to die at higher rates than other Americans in many categories, including chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (nearly 5 times the rate), diabetes mellitus (3 times), unintentional injuries (2.5 times), assault/homicide (2 times), suicide (2 times), and alcohol-induced death (7 times);
- According to a 2016 study examining behavioral health programs and Medicaid in Alaska: “Statewide gaps in the continuum of care combined with gaps in healthcare coverage perpetuate a cycle of crisis response and create costly inefficiencies.”
- According to the CDC, the suicide rate among Alaska Natives is almost four times the U.S. general population rate and at least six times the national average in some parts of the State.
- According to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, in 2011, over 50 percent of some 4,500 reports of maltreatment substantiated by Alaska’s child protective services, and over 60 percent of nearly 800 children removed from their homes were Alaska Native children.

We must stop this cycle of abuse and destruction. Alaska Native villages require the resources to build healthy families and communities. They do so by ensuring Alaska Native families have such basic necessities as housing, healthcare and public safety services. This Subcommittee has worked in a bipartisan manner to increase funds for Alaska Native villages and Tribes in such areas in recognition of the great unmet needs faced by Alaska Native communities. For rural interior Alaska Native communities facing a State budget crisis for fiscal year 2020, Federal appropriations make the difference between the success and failure of our efforts and, in turn, the wellness of our Tribal members. We have faith that this Committee will defend and increase fiscal year 2020 Federal funding levels for Indian Country.

1. Improve Tribal Health Care Quality and Access (IHS)

Build on the Fiscal Year 2019 Enacted Budget for IHS.—TCC greatly appreciates the \$266.4 million increase over the fiscal year 2018 enacted level for the IHS included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019, and full payment of Contract Support Costs. However, more is needed to address the critical health needs in our Alaska Native communities, and reduce the health disparities they experience. Major increases are needed especially for purchased and referred care and for small ambulatory clinics construction and staffing. TCC remains one of the only Tribal

health entities in Alaska that does not have a regional hospital, so our members are more dependent on village clinics to provide routine and emergency healthcare. We also rely heavily on P/R/C funds. We also appreciate your acknowledgment that housing shortages in Alaska contribute to the high vacancy rates for medical personnel, especially in rural areas.

TCC cannot understand why the administration proposes in fiscal year 2020 to eliminate funding for the Health Education Program, or reduce funding for the Community Health Representatives program. Nor can we understand the administration cutting IHS Facilities program funding some \$77 million when our needs are so great. We are confident that the subcommittee will reject these cuts, but such reversals must be met with increased appropriation based on the continued unmet needs for clinical facilities and hospitals in Alaska and throughout Indian country.

TCC greatly appreciates the administration including \$150 million in the fiscal year 2020 budget for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). We recommend that Congress move this appropriation to “mandatory” and increase the program to at least \$200 million for fiscal year 2020.

With respect to the payment of full Contract Support Costs, we are appreciative of the Committee’s use of indefinite appropriations. Unfortunately, however, the IHS has made its CSC policy unduly complicated and we urge the subcommittee to continue to monitor that the agency faithfully implements direction from the subcommittee on this subject as well as Supreme Court holdings. Full payment of CSCs means just that and the IHS should not be permitted, by its policies, to undermine that essential goal.

2. Expand Public Safety and Tribal Court in Interior Alaska

As our Chief and President, Victor Joseph, testified last year, we cannot stress enough the importance village leaders place protecting our children, and all Tribal members from sexual abuse, domestic violence and substance abuse. TCC is on record with numerous resolutions to express our members’ exasperation over insufficient public safety services in our remote Alaska Native Villages. We cannot state it any clearer: Interior Alaska’s rates of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and child rape are among the highest in the Nation. We have a crisis.

For that reason, we oppose the proposed cuts to the BIA budget included in the administration’s fiscal year 2020 budget. These proposed cuts are unwise, and reflect an abandonment of the Federal trust responsibility to Indian Tribes and American Indian and Alaska Native people. TCC appreciates the fiscal year 2019 enacted increase of \$2.5 million for Public Safety and Justice funds and cannot understand how the administration can justify its proposal to cut \$10 million from this funding for fiscal year 2020.

We also appreciate the Committee’s continued appropriations for Public Law 280 courts and Report language that expresses the Committee’s “concern” about Tribal courts’ needs identified in the Indian Law and Order Commission’s November 2013 report, which highlighted the fact that “Federal investment in Tribal justice in ‘Public Law 280’ States [like Alaska,] has been more limited than elsewhere in Indian Country.” The Committee directed the BIA to work with Tribes and Tribal organizations in Public Law 280 States to consider options that promote, design, or pilot Tribal court systems for Tribal communities that are subject to full or partial State jurisdiction under Public Law 280.

TCC has limited recurring funds to pay for our Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program which works in conjunction with Alaska State Troopers. Our VPSOs are the “First Responders in the Last Frontier” and they respond to emergency calls, fire, EMS and search and rescue. With limited funds for public safety, the role of Tribal Courts in Alaska Native villages is critical. It allows our villages to address public safety concerns at the community level and break the cycle of arrest, prosecution and incarceration.

We urge the Committee to provide increased funds for Public Law 280 courts so that we may better address public safety issues in our remote Interior Alaska Tribal communities.

3. Expand Tribal Opportunities for Job Training and Economic Development

TCC continues its mission to assist hundreds of Tribal members in Fairbanks and in our Native villages with CDL classes, employment training in such areas as facility maintenance, flooring and cabinet installation, plumbing, plastic and cooper pipe fitting, wildland firefighting training, and cooking. With unemployment rates among Alaska Natives and American Indians multiple times the current national unemployment rate of 3.6 percent, we cannot understand the continued lack of funding within the BIA’s Community and Economic Development Programs. Nor can we expect that, under the administration’s proposal to massively cut the BIA budget, suf-

ficient funding will be available for Job Placement and Training programs. We are confident that the subcommittee will continue to improve appropriations for these critical areas; there is great dignity in learning a trade and providing for your family.

Please provide meaningful increases to the BIA budget for these and related programs in the Interior Department's fiscal year 2020 appropriations to help promote job creation in our rural Native villages where work is seasonal and unemployment remains high. Our current resources are simply inadequate to the task at hand.

Thank you for permitting the Tanana Chiefs Conference the opportunity to submit written testimony.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Madame Chairman and distinguished members of the subcommittee, Theatre Communications Group—the national service organization for the American theatre—is grateful for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of our over 500 not-for-profit member theatres across the country and the approximately 44 million audience members that the theatre community serves. We urge you to support funding at \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts for fiscal year 2020.

The entire not-for-profit arts industry stimulates the economy, creates jobs, and attracts tourism dollars. The not-for-profit arts generate \$166.3 billion annually in economic activity, support 4.6 million jobs, and return \$27.5 billion in government revenue. Art museums, exhibits, and festivals combine with performances of theatre, dance, opera, and music to draw tourists and their consumer dollars to communities nationwide. Federal funding for the arts creates a significant return, generating nine dollars in matching funds for each Federal dollar awarded, and is clearly an investment in the economic health of America. In an economy where corporate donations and foundation grants to the arts are diminished and increased ticket prices would undermine efforts to broaden and diversify audiences, these Federal funds simply cannot be replaced. Maintaining the strength of the not-for-profit sector, along with the commercial sector, is vital to supporting the economic health of our Nation.

Our country's not-for-profit theatres present new works and serve as catalysts for economic growth in their local communities. These theatres also nurture and provide artistic homes for the development of the current and future generations of acclaimed writers, actors, directors, and designers working in regional theatre, on Broadway, and in the film and television industries. Our theatres develop innovative educational activities and outreach programs, providing millions of young people, including "at-risk" youth, with important skills for the future by expanding their creativity and developing problem-solving, reasoning, and communication abilities—preparing today's students to become tomorrow's citizens. At the same time, theatres have become increasingly responsive to their communities, serving as healing forces in difficult times and producing work that reflects and celebrates the strength of our Nation's diversity.

Here are some recent examples of NEA grants and their community impact:

Cleveland Public Theatre in Ohio has received a \$10,000 ArtWorks grant from the NEA to support the development and premiere of *The Mask of Flight*. The play is inspired by the ways we cover and uncover ourselves. The ensemble will investigate the theme of masking through various examples of veiling—for instance, how we veil racism, how politically correct language can be a veil, how women cover for modesty and religious reasons vs. being forced to veil, how someone may veil their gender identity—and how these situations relate and intersect. *The Mask of Flight* will be a collage of short pieces springing from various works created for Cleveland Public Theatre's annual community events including *Station Hope*, a celebration of Cleveland's role in the Underground Railroad and an exploration of contemporary social justice issues. Annually, Cleveland Public Theatre engages over 800 children and families in public housing, teens from families defined as low-income, and formerly homeless men in recovery. These participants create original productions that are attended by 4,000 community members.

Park Square Theatre in Minnesota has received a \$10,000 Challenge America grant from the NEA to support the residency of Theatre Mu and their world premiere commission of *The Korean Drama Addict's Guide to Losing Your Virginity* by May Lee-Yang and to support community outreach programming. Theatre Mu engaged the local audience with talk-back discussions after performances and other engagement activities related to contemporary Korean and Hmong culture. Pay As

You Are and other discounted tickets were offered for the entire three week run in order to make the performances as accessible as possible.

Perseverance Theatre in Alaska has received a \$15,000 ArtWorks grant from the NEA for the world premiere of *Whale Song*, by Cathy Tagnak Rexford (Inupiat). The play explores the love of Inupiat people for the bowhead whale, examining myth, gender roles, and the balance of duty to oneself versus duty to others. Featuring a primarily Alaska Native cast, *Whale Song* is part of Perseverance Theatre's 40th anniversary season. The theatre will offer Pay-As-You-Can previews and performances, student matinees, and a post-show discussion. Cathy Tagnak Rexford (Inupiat) is a member of The Playwright's Circle, a group of 15 playwrights with the goal of developing diverse, new Alaskan plays and representing voices that were previously unheard. Perseverance Theatre serves over 17,000 artists, students, and audiences annually.

Portland Stage Company in Maine has received a \$15,000 ArtWorks grant from the NEA to support the world premiere of *Babette's Feast*, conceived and developed by Abbie Killeen, written by Rose Courtney, and adapted from the short story by Isak Dinesen. *Babette's Feast* tells the story of a refugee who transforms a closed religious community by sacrificing all she has in order to throw a lavish dinner party. The three-week run included 3 Pay-What-You-Can performances. Portland Stage also offered student matinees followed by talk back discussions; the theatre serves more than 7,000 students annually through its Student Matinee Program. Portland Stage Literacy and Education departments created *Babette's Feast* Playnotes—an extensive resource guide for students, teachers, and other audience members who wished to delve more deeply into the play. *Babette's Feast* was also a part of the Curtain Call Discussion Series, in which audience members had the opportunity to talk about the production with the performers. Throughout the run of the play, Portland Stage partnered with Wayside Food Program to run a food drive, with the goal of reaching 500 pounds of food.

These are only a few examples of the kinds of extraordinary programs supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. Indeed, the Endowment's Theatre Program is able to fund only 60 percent of the applications it receives, so 40 percent of applying theatres are turned away—in part because available funds are insufficient. Theatre Communications Group urges you to support a funding level of \$167.5 million for fiscal year 2020 for the NEA; to maintain citizen access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts; and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.

The arts infrastructure of the United States is critical to the Nation's well-being and economic vitality. It is supported by a remarkable combination of government, business, foundation, and individual donors and represents a striking example of Federal/State/private partnership. Federal support for the arts provides a measure of stability for arts programs nationwide and is critical at a time when other sources of funding are diminished. Further, the American public favors spending Federal tax dollars in support of the arts.

Despite the President's proposal to eliminate the agency, the subcommittee and Congress approved a \$2 million increase in fiscal year 2019, which accounts for the NEA's current funding at \$155 million in the fiscal year 2019 budget. We thank the subcommittee for its leadership in supporting the work of the NEA. Please stand firm against the President's second proposal to eliminate the NEA. We urge the subcommittee to fund the NEA at a level of \$167.5 million to preserve the important cultural programs reaching Americans across the country.

Thank you for considering this request.

[This statement was submitted by Laurie Baskin, Director of Research, Policy & Collective Action.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE TRIBAL LAW AND POLICY INSTITUTE

A recent assessment from the U.S. Civil Rights Commission has found that "Federal funding for Native American programs across the government remains grossly inadequate to meet the most basic needs the Federal Government is obligated to provide."¹ Tribal leaders and citizens have known this for decades, and we urge Congress to fully fund the U.S. Government's treaty and statutory obligations.

While Congress has dealt with a spending environment hampered by an austerity fiscal policy, including sequestration and tight limits on discretionary accounts, the

¹ U.S. COMM'N ON CIVIL RIGHTS, *BROKEN PROMISES: CONTINUING FEDERAL FUNDING SHORTFALL FOR NATIVE AMERICANS*, (2018) <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/12-20-Broken-Promises.pdf>.

Federal trust and treaty obligations to Indian country are no less imperative. The fact that these solemn agreements that are funded in the Federal budget have been subject to political impasses, including a recent 35-day Federal Government shutdown, highlights the need for solutions to protect vital Tribal governmental services from interruptions.

The Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) is a 100 percent Native American operated non-profit corporation organized to design and deliver education, research, training, and technical assistance programs which promote the enhancement of justice in Indian country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native peoples. Our mission is to enhance and strengthen Tribal sovereignty and justice while honoring community values, protecting rights, and promoting well-being.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) provide core governmental services for Tribal nations, including hospitals, schools, law enforcement, child welfare programs, social services, and more. For many Tribal nations, most Tribal governmental services are funded by Federal sources as part of the treaty and trust responsibility. This is particularly important because Tribal nations lack the tax base and parity in tax authority under Federal law to raise governmental revenue to deliver services. Federal funding remains critical to ensure essential government services are delivered to Tribal citizens. In addition to the appropriations requests below, TLPI urges Congress to fund BIA and IHS through advance appropriations to protect Tribal governments and citizens from future shutdowns as well as cash flow problems that regularly occur at the start of the fiscal year.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Along with the IHS, the BIA is one of the primary agencies responsible for providing services throughout Indian Country, either directly or through compacts or contracts with Tribal governments. As part of the fiscal year 2020 budget formulation process, Tribes from each BIA region completed a survey to outline which ten budget lines they would prefer to provide increased funding to and why. The formulation process provides a window into which program areas Tribes would prefer to see increases designated. The results of this process show that BIA Social Services, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Tribal Courts, Aid to Tribal Government, Scholarships and Adult Education, Criminal Investigations/Policing, Road Maintenance, Housing, Johnson O'Malley, Detentions and Corrections, and Welfare Assistance made up the top 11.

For Public Safety and Justice Programs, one of the most fundamental aspects of the Federal Government's trust responsibility is the obligation to protect public safety on Tribal lands. Congress and the United States Supreme Court have long acknowledged this obligation, which Congress most recently reaffirmed in the Tribal Law and Order Act expressly "acknowledging the Federal nexus and distinct Federal responsibility to address and prevent crime in Indian Country." In 2018 the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that there continues to be "systematic underfunding of Tribal law enforcement and criminal justice systems, as well as structural barriers in the funding and operation of criminal justice systems in Indian Country" that undermine public safety.² Tribal justice systems simply need the resources to put their tools to work so they can protect women, children and families, address substance abuse, rehabilitate first-time offenders, and put serious criminals behind bars.

The underfunding of Tribal law enforcement and justice systems is well-documented. Most recently, the BIA submitted a report to Congress in 2017 estimating that to provide a minimum base level of service to all federally-recognized Tribes \$1 billion is needed for Tribal law enforcement, \$1 billion is needed for Tribal courts, and \$222.8 million is needed to adequately fund existing detention centers.³ Based on recent appropriation levels, BIA is generally funding Tribal law enforcement at about 20 percent of estimated need, Tribal detention at about 40 percent of estimated need, and Tribal courts at a dismal 3 percent of estimated need.

TLPI recommends an increase in base funding for Tribal courts, for a total of \$83 million, which would must include courts in PL 280 jurisdictions. The BIA estimates that full funding for Tribal courts would cost \$1 billion. fiscal year 2018 funding for Tribal courts was \$30.6 million, or 3 percent of the estimated need. TLPI also rec-

²*Id.* at 32.

³Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services. "Report to Congress on Spending, Staffing, and Estimated Funding Costs for Public Safety and Justice Programs in Indian Country," (Aug, 16, 2016), <https://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xojs/documents/document/idc2-051817.pdf>.

ommends an increase to BIA Law Enforcement of \$200 million, for a total of \$573 million, which also must include Public Law 280 Tribes.

BIA Social Services help to address the underlying conditions such as drug addiction, poverty, and violence that tend to create and perpetuate the circumstances that produce victims. Sub-activities include services in the areas of family and domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and protective services. However, many Tribes' Social Services departments are understaffed and experience high turnover rates. A lack of increased yearly funding tends to hinder these protective services. TLPI recommends \$55 million for BIA Social Services in fiscal year 2020.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The Federal responsibility for healthcare is rooted in the treaty and trust promises.⁴ Yet, the Federal Government has never fully lived up to this responsibility. Appropriations for the IHS have never been adequate to meet basic patient needs, and healthcare is delivered in mostly third world conditions. The Indian healthcare delivery system faces significant funding disparities, notably in per capita spending between the IHS and other Federal healthcare programs. The IHS has been and continues to be a critical institution in securing the health and wellness of Tribal communities. In fiscal year 2017, the IHS per capita expenditures were just \$4,078, compared to \$8,109 for Medicaid, \$10,692 for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and \$13,185 for Medicare.⁵ New healthcare insurance opportunities and expanded Medicaid in some States may expand healthcare resources available to AI/ANs.

TLPI recommends the amount requested by the IHS Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup for fiscal year 2020, a total of \$7.03 billion for the Indian Health Service in fiscal year 2020. This amount would include an increase to maintain current services and other binding obligations and allow for program expansions, as listed in the Workgroup's fiscal year 2020 report. Further, IHS should be provided advance appropriations, and be exempted from Federal Government shutdowns and sequestrations, much like the comparably situated VHA.

CONCLUSION

We look forward to working with this subcommittee on a nonpartisan basis to protect the Federal trust and treaty obligations in the budget. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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⁴ See e.g. Geoffrey D. Strommer, Starla K. Roels, and Caroline P. Mayhew, *Tribal Sovereign Authority and Self-Regulation of Health Care Services: The Legal Framework and the Swinomish Tribe's Dental Health Program*, 21:2 J. OF HEALTH CARE LAW AND POLICY 115 (2018).

⁵ U.S. GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE: SPENDING LEVELS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF IHS AND THREE OTHER FEDERAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, GAO-19-74R, 5 (Dec. 10, 2018), <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/695871.pdf>

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall and distinguished Members of the subcommittee:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of The Trust for Public Land in support of programs under your jurisdiction for the fiscal year 2020 appropriations process. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit land conservation organization working to protect land for people in communities across the Nation. We are extremely grateful for the steadfast support members of this subcommittee have shown for Federal conservation programs during these challenging fiscal times.

We recognize that the subcommittee will face enormous challenges in meeting the broad range of priority needs in the Interior and Environment bill this year. The President's budget request for fiscal year 2020 once again proposes drastic program

reductions and elimination of core Federal conservation programs that have long had an impact in communities across the country. Our work in many of your districts and elsewhere shows that there is tremendous support for conservation and access to recreation at the local, State and Federal level, and the programs under your jurisdiction play a critical role in bringing those community visions to reality while supporting a robust outdoor recreation economy. We urge you to once again reject the President's budget and make investments in programs that support conservation and outdoor recreation on our public lands, from local parks to national parks.

The major programs under your jurisdiction that we count on year in and year out are the entire suite of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs: BLM, FWS, NPS, and USFS acquisitions, NPS State and local grants—especially the competitive grants program for city parks—Forest Legacy Program, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, Highlands Conservation Act grants, and American Battlefield Protection Program. Other programs include the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Community Forest Program, National Endowment for the Arts, and Brownfields grants.

Land and Water Conservation Fund.—We are thrilled that Congress voted overwhelmingly to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, after two unfortunate expirations of this effective and popular program. We urge the subcommittee to work towards fully funding LWCF so that the original promise of LWCF investments in conservation and outdoor recreation needs across the country can finally be met. In the recent fiscal year 2019 omnibus appropriations bill, Congress furnished the program with \$435 million, and we thank you for the \$10 million increase over the previous year. For fiscal year 2020, we respectfully ask that you increase LWCF in total to \$600 million, with that plus-up shared among all programs. At two-thirds of LWCF's authorized funding level and still less than is deposited each year into the LWCF account, we believe this increase represents a sound investment that spreads limited resources wisely across urgent and diverse priorities. It also makes real progress toward the goal of fully funding this critical program. Recent conference agreements have done an excellent job of fairly allocating LWCF funds between Federal and State needs, and we encourage you to maintain that split.

The appropriations committees also included important conference report language in fiscal year 2018 and 2019 that instructed the four Federal land management agencies and Forest Legacy Program to continue ranking projects annually, and to make those lists available to the committee by March 1. These ranked project priorities reflect needs across the country and we urge you to request agency project lists that total greater than the enacted level for each land management account, if necessary. The fact that the President's budget does not include project lists has complicated the process, but we are confident that you will be attentive to this matter and look forward to working with you to ensure that you have the best information possible on which to base your funding decisions. The agencies should not be allowed to limit their lists, as that imposes an artificial limit on the work of the subcommittee to review project needs and allocate LWCF dollars accordingly. We greatly appreciate the key role your subcommittee plays in ensuring that LWCF is used for high-priority strategic investments and appreciate that in challenging budgetary times you have maintained a commitment to this bipartisan program.

Within the LWCF total, individual programs bring specific and complementary conservation benefits to the American public. These key programs are:

BLM/FWS/NPS/USFS: Land Acquisitions.—Every year tens of millions of Americans, as well as visitors to our country, enjoy our Federal public lands—national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and BLM conservation lands. Strategic inholding and other acquisitions in these Federal areas through LWCF ensure recreation access and nature education; foster vital economic growth; protect clean water and other community resources; enhance the incomparable natural and scenic treasures that belong to all Americans; and frequently resolve complex land-use conflicts and produce management savings. Without adequate funding, the unfortunate alternative often is an irretrievable loss of public use and enjoyment of these areas and irreversible damage to the resources we all care about. We strenuously oppose the budget proposal eliminating all funds for land protection projects and urge you to increase allocations to each land acquisition account using the comprehensive agency project priority lists discussed above.

We applaud the inclusion of recreational access line items in recent appropriations bills for each of the four land management agencies—with particular emphasis on BLM and USFS—and support similarly focused funding in the fiscal year 2020 bill to address opening up and improving public access to the outdoors. The Presi-

dent's budget reduced recreational access funding for all four land management agencies by 95 percent. We urge you to restore it.

USFS: Forest Legacy Program.—For almost 30 years, the Forest Legacy Program has been an extraordinarily effective program, providing assistance to States and localities seeking to preserve important working forests. It has protected over 2.5 million acres of forestland and has leveraged above and beyond the required 25 percent match. Forest Legacy projects provide multiple public benefits through forest protection—clean water, wildlife protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, public access to recreation, economic development and sustainable forestry. Working with States, landowners and other partners, we have worked to submit a number of projects to protect recreation access for snowmobilers and hikers, ensure jobs in the woods, buffer important Federal and State conservation areas and provide strategic land conservation that fits a larger goal. Among these are projects to protect the recreational access and critical wildlife habitat in Montana and working forests along Hood Canal and Puget Sound in Washington. We strongly oppose the administration's elimination of this program and instead urge your continued support for sustained investment in this strategic and successful program by increasing FLP funding to \$100 million, which reflects demand from the States.

USFWS: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.—We are grateful for the subcommittee's support for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF), which leverages State and private funds to protect threatened and endangered species habitat across the Nation. Two components of this program are funded via LWCF: the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition program and the Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) program. The CESCF has been critical to communities in California, Montana and other States where landowners and public wildlife managers are working together through integrated planning to foster species recovery and appropriate economic development. The land acquisition portion of this program was eliminated in the President's Budget. We support at least the House-proposed level of \$40 million for the HCP and RLA land acquisition programs in fiscal year 2020.

NPS: State and Local Assistance grants.—Since 1965, the State and local assistance grant program has provided over \$4 billion in Federal funds for more than 42,000 projects in States and local communities for park protection and development of recreation facilities. This program reaches deep into communities across our Nation, supporting citizen-led efforts to conserve places of local importance and opportunities for close-to-home recreation. The Trust for Public Land works with local communities to create, build, design, fund and care for parks, trails and playgrounds. As we our work with many of these communities to meet these needs, we hope the subcommittee will continue to provide funding to this important program. We are also very grateful for the subcommittee's continued support for allocating a portion of LWCF State and local assistance funds to the nationwide competitive program, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program. In fiscal year 2019, you once again demonstrated your commitment to this program by funding competitive grants at \$20 million. We support increasing that allocation to at least \$30 million in fiscal year 2020, given the demand from communities all across the country for funds that will help bring people in underserved areas closer to the outdoors—often within a ten minute walk from home.

NPS: American Battlefield Protection Program.—We applaud the subcommittee for its longstanding commitment to this important program, which complements acquisitions of threatened Civil War, Revolutionary War, and War of 1812 properties in national park units with non-Federal land protection of key battlefield sites. We hope that Congress can provide an increase to the program to the \$20 million level in fiscal year 2020.

USFWS: Highlands Conservation Act.—We greatly appreciate the increase provided in fiscal year 2019 to the Highlands Conservation Act grant program and urge the subcommittee to maintain the \$20 million level of funding in fiscal year 2020, in order to address important outdoor recreation and water protection needs in the four-State area authorized by Congress.

Beyond LWCF, we urge the subcommittee to provide adequate funding to other conservation programs including:

USFWS: North American Wetlands Conservation Act.—We respectfully request your support for program funding at the enacted level of \$42 million in fiscal year 2020. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) provides much-needed matching grants to carry out wetlands conservation, restoration and enhancement projects. NAWCA is a highly-leveraged program with a substantial record of success and is an important Federal tool to protect critical wetland habitat.

USFS: Community Forest Program.—Contrary to the President’s Budget, which eliminates the program, we urge your continued support for the Community Forest Program (CFP), which complements existing conservation programs by helping communities and Tribes identify, purchase, and manage locally important forestlands that are threatened with development. These community forests can be tailored to local needs, from timber revenue for municipal or county budgets to recreation access and outdoor education. Every Federal dollar from CFP is at least evenly matched by funding from State, local, and private sources. The Forest Service has now approved 35 grants in 17 States and territories—including the North Falmouth Community Forest in Cumberland County, Maine and the Chimacum Community Forest in Jefferson County, Washington—for innovative local and Tribal projects, and the program has generated significant interest from local entities concerned about the future of their close-to-home forests. Given the strong interest in community forests from coast to coast, we urge you to include at least \$5 million in the fiscal year 2020 bill for this innovative conservation tool.

National Endowment for the Arts.—Since its establishment by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts. Through partnerships with State arts agencies, local leaders, other Federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community. NEA provides not only critical funding and resources to the arts community but also significant investments in parks and community development through its Art Works and Our Town grants. According to analysis by Americans for the Arts, every \$1 of NEA funding leverages \$9 in private and public dollars and fuels a dynamic cultural economy and generates millions of American jobs. We strongly urge the inclusion of \$167.5 million for the agency in fiscal year 2020 in order to preserve access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts.

EPA: Brownfields.—The EPA’s Brownfields Program is a results-oriented program that has changed the way contaminated property is perceived, addressed, and managed. This Program is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to prevent, assess, clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields—often converting the sites into parks and vital open space. The Trust for Public Land supports at least the enacted level of funding for these programs in fiscal year 2020.

The programs highlighted here are critical to the future of conservation at the local, State and Federal levels; reflect the continued demand on the part of the American people for access to outdoor recreation; and help sustain our economy and reflect the true partnership that exists in Federal conservation efforts. As ever, we are deeply thankful for the subcommittee’s recognition of the importance of these programs and urge you to maintain robust funding for them in the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies bill. Thank you for your help and support, and for your consideration of our requests.

[This statement was submitted by Kathy DeCoster, Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE PACIFIC SALMON
COMMISSION

Madam Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am Ron Allen, the Alternate Tribal Commissioner and Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee for the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). The U.S. Section prepares an annual budget for implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). The United States and Canada recently completed the revision of five of the Annex Chapters to the PST. The Annex Chapters contain the details for operations of fisheries under the Treaty and will be in operation for the next 10 years.

Funding to implement the PST comes from the Departments of Interior, Commerce, and State. The integrated budget details program needs and costs for Tribal, Federal, and State agencies involved in the Treaty. Tribal participation in the Treaty process is funded within the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget as a line item within Rights Protection Implementation.

In order to meet the increased obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement, the 25 affected Tribes identified costs at \$5,200,000 for Tribal research projects and participation in the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty process. This represents an increase of \$857,278 from fiscal year 2017 levels.

The funding for Tribal participation in the Pacific Salmon Treaty is a line item in the BIA's budget under Rights Protection Implementation.

Under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service programs, the U.S. Section identified funding needs as follows:

USFWS participation in the Treaty process was funded at \$372,362 for fiscal year 2017. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission's Regional Mark Center (PSMFC) receives support from the USFWS to provide data services to the PSC process at \$236,189 for fiscal year 2017. The U.S. Section recommends increasing the funding for PSMFC by \$150,000. The recommended total for the two programs for fiscal year 2020 is \$758,551.

The base funding for the USFWS supports critically important on-going work and participation in the process. The funding for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission's Regional Mark Processing Center is utilized to meet Treaty requirements concerning data exchange with Canada. These program recommendations are integrated with those of participating State and Federal agencies to avoid duplication of effort and provide for the most efficient expenditure of limited funds.

The U.S. Section of the PSC is recommending an adjustment in funding to support the work carried out by the 25 treaty Tribes' participating in implementation of the Treaty. Programs carried out by the Tribes are closely coordinated with those of participating State and Federal agencies. Tribal programs are essential for the United States to meet its international obligations. Tribal programs have taken on additional management responsibilities over time. The revised Chinook Chapter includes a new metric for evaluating terminal area fisheries. The CYER (Calendar Year Exploitation Rate) metric requires additional data collection and data management by the affected Tribes. All participating agencies need to be adequately supported to achieve a comprehensive U.S. effort to implement the Treaty.

The USFWS activities are essential, so the U.S. can maintain the coded wire tag database necessary to implement the Treaty. The work of the Regional Mark Processing Center includes maintaining and updating a coastwide computerized information management system for salmon harvest data as required by the Treaty. This work has become even more important to monitor the success of management actions aimed at reducing impacts on ESA-listed salmon populations. Canada has a counterpart database. The U.S. database will continue to be housed at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Funding to support activities under the Pacific Salmon Commission comes from the Departments of Interior, State, and Commerce. The U.S. Section can provide a cross-cut budget summary to the Committee. Adequate funding from all three Departments is necessary for the U.S. to meet its Treaty obligations. All the funds are needed for critical data collection and research activities directly related to the implementation and are used in cooperative programs involving Federal, State, and Tribal fishery agencies and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada. The commitment of the United States is matched by the commitment of the Government of Canada.

Madam Chair, the United States and Canada established the Pacific Salmon Commission, under the Pacific Salmon Treaty of 1985, to conserve salmon stocks, provide for optimum production of salmon, and to control salmon interceptions. After 35 years, the work of the Pacific Salmon Commission continues to be essential for the wise management of salmon in the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and Alaska. For example, upriver bright fall Chinook salmon from the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River are caught in large numbers in Alaskan and Canadian waters. Tribal and non-Tribal fishermen harvest sockeye salmon from Canada's Fraser River in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in Puget Sound. Canadian trollers off the west coast of Vancouver Island catch Washington coastal Coho salmon and Puget Sound Chinook salmon. In the Northern Boundary area between Canada and Alaska, fish from both countries are intercepted by the other country in large numbers. The Pacific Salmon Commission provides a forum to ensure cooperative management of salmon populations. The United States and Canada reached agreements for revised Annex Chapters for management of Chinook, Coho, Chum and trans-boundary salmon populations for the next 10 years. The Annex Chapter for management of Fraser River Sockeye and Pink salmon expires at the end of 2019 and an update is expected to be completed soon. It is critically important to have adequate resources for U.S. participants to implement the revised agreements and protect our Tribal Treaty resources.

Before the Treaty, fish wars often erupted with one or both countries overharvesting fish that were returning to the other country, to the detriment of the resource. At the time the Treaty was signed, Chinook salmon were in a severely de-

pressed State because of overharvest in the ocean as well as environmental degradation in the spawning rivers. Under the Treaty, both countries committed to rebuild the depressed runs of Chinook stocks and recommitted to that goal in 1999 when adopting a coastwide abundance-based approach to harvest management. Under this approach, harvest management has complemented habitat conservation and restoration activities undertaken by the States, Tribes, and other stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest to address the needs of salmon listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The updated Annex Chapters continue these commitments. The combination of these efforts is integral to achieving success in rebuilding and restoring healthy, sustainable salmon populations.

Finally, you should consider that the value of the commercial harvest of salmon subject to the Treaty, managed at productive levels under the Treaty, supports the infrastructure of many coastal and inland communities. The value of the commercial, recreational fisheries, and the economic diversity they provide for local economies throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, is immense. The Commission funded an economic study of the fisheries and determined that this resource creates thousands of jobs and is a multi-billion dollar industry. The value of these fish to the 24 treaty Tribes in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho goes far beyond their monetary value, to the cultural and religious lives of Indian people. A significant monetary investment is focused on salmon due to the listings of Pacific Northwest salmon populations under the Endangered Species Act. Given these resources, we continue to utilize the Pacific Salmon Commission to develop recommendations that help with the development and implementation of solutions to minimizing impacts on listed stocks. We continue to work towards the true intent of the Treaty, and with your support, we will manage this shared resource for mutual enhancements and benefits.

Madam Chair, that concludes my written testimony submitted for consideration by your Committee. I want to thank the Committee for the support that it has given the U.S. Section in the past. Please feel free to contact me, or other members of the U.S. Section to answer any questions you or Committee members may have regarding the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission budget.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE USGS COALITION

The USGS Coalition appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony about fiscal year 2020 appropriations for the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS Coalition requests that Congress fund the USGS at \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2020. The requested funding would allow the agency to sustain current efforts in scientific discovery and innovation and to make strategic investments that will produce the impartial knowledge and decision support tools needed by decision-makers across the country. The President's budget request represents a more than a 15 percent cut to the fiscal year 2019 enacted budget.

The USGS is uniquely positioned to provide information and inform responses to many of the Nation's greatest challenges. The USGS is an agency that has a distinctive capacity to deploy truly interdisciplinary teams of experts to gather data, conduct research, and develop integrated decision support tools that improve ecosystem management, ensure accurate assessments of our water quality and quantity, reduce risks from natural and human-induced hazards, deliver timely assessments of mineral and energy resources, and provide emergency responders with accurate geospatial data and maps.

The USGS Coalition is an alliance of more than 85 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the United States Geological Survey to provide critical data and services. Coalition members include scientific organizations, universities, businesses, and natural resource managers.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE NATION

Established by Congress as a branch of the Department of the Interior in 1879, the USGS has a national mission that extends beyond the boundaries of the Nation's public lands to positively impact the lives of all Americans. The USGS plays a unique role within the Department of the Interior, conducting research across a broad array of scientific disciplines and providing data that informs responses to many of the Nation's greatest challenges. To highlight just a few examples, USGS scientists:

- Reduce risks from natural hazards—including earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, drought, and wildfires—that jeopardize human lives and result in billions of dollars in damages annually. USGS not

- only works to improve the scientific understanding of these hazards, but also works to relay these findings to Federal, state, and local decision makers in order to better adapt response protocols in the event of an emergency. Recent disasters, such as the Camp, Carr and Woolsey wildfires and Hurricanes Michael and Florence, highlight the Nation's continued vulnerability to natural disasters and their catastrophic economic losses.
- Inform management of freshwater resources—both above and below the land surface—for drinking water, agriculture, and commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological purposes.
 - Inform sound management of natural resources on Federal and State lands, including control of invasive species and wildlife diseases that cause billions of dollars in economic losses. This information is shared with other Interior bureaus and State agencies to allow for adequate monitoring and management.
 - Provide vital geospatial and mapping data used in economic development, environmental management, infrastructure projects, and scientific applications by States, Federal agencies, and the private sector.
 - Help predict the impacts of land use and climatic conditions on the availability of water resources and the frequency of wildfires. The Landsat satellites have collected the largest archive of remotely sensed land data in the world, which informs agriculture production and our Nation's response to and mitigation of natural hazards.
 - Help make decisions about the Nation's economic and energy future by assessing mineral and energy resources—including rare earth elements, coal, oil, unconventional natural gas, and geothermal. The USGS is the sole Federal source of information on mineral potential, production, and consumption.

FUNDING

Over the years, Congress has worked in a bipartisan fashion to provide essential funding to the USGS. These efforts have paid dividends and helped the USGS provide answers to the challenging questions facing decision-makers across the country. As a science agency, much of the USGS budget is dedicated to salaries and equipment that must be maintained and updated to ensure the continuity of data acquisition and that the data gathered are reliable and available for future scientific investigations. We believe that the leadership of the USGS is doing all they can to contain costs while continuing to deliver high quality science. Any cuts in fiscal year 2020 or beyond would come at the expense of scientific programs.

One strength of the USGS is its partnerships with many other Federal agencies, States, local governments, educational institutions and private entities. These relationships, however, should not be mistaken as a means to transfer Federal activities to other entities. The work of the USGS is uniquely tied to the agency, as shown in the following examples:

- Expected losses from natural hazards in the U.S. have averaged more than \$20 billion per year over the past 2 decades. These losses can be significantly reduced through informed decisions guided by the most current and thoroughly-researched understanding of the hazards, risks, and cost of mitigation. The USGS Science Application for Risk Reduction Project was created to innovate the application of hazard science for the safety, security, and economic well-being of the Nation by directing new and existing scientific research toward addressing gaps in vulnerability to help communities build resilience to natural hazards.
- Precise elevation data is needed for a variety of applications, including farming, infrastructure construction, flood mitigation, and aviation safety. The U.S., however, does not yet have national coverage of high-quality topographic data. Given its expertise in mapping, the USGS is the lead entity for the 3D Elevation Program, which will acquire precise national elevation data coverage within 8 years. The program is estimated to provide benefits worth \$1.1 billion a year to government and private entities.
- Nearly half of America's drinking water comes from underground aquifers. The large size of some aquifers, which can span the boundaries of multiple States, puts them beyond the scope of local water authorities. The USGS is evaluating water quality in 20 principal aquifers as part of the National Water-Quality Assessment Project. The program is testing for contaminants, such as pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and other pollutants that threaten human health.
- The Landsat satellites have accumulated the largest archive of remotely sensed land data in the world, providing an important resource of land use planning, agriculture, assessing water resources and addressing the impacts from natural hazards.

- According to analysis completed by USGS, State fish and wildlife agencies have identified more than 16,000 species as at risk or in need of additional monitoring. USGS Cooperative Research Unit scientists work to bring State agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists and decision makers together on cooperative research projects, trainings, and workshops before these species reach the point of Endangered Species Act listing.
- Recent research by the USGS identified the potential for avian flu to move between Europe and North America when migratory birds congregate in Iceland during their migration. Wildlife diseases threaten not only the ecosystem and economic values of wild animals, but can also jeopardize human health. The USGS has unique technical expertise for surveillance and diagnosis of wildlife disease, such as identifying a potential transmission route of a deadly disease.

CONCLUSION

We recognize the financial challenges facing the Nation, but losing irreplaceable data can increase costs to society today and in the future. Data not collected and analyzed today is data lost forever. This is particularly significant for environmental monitoring systems, where the loss of a year's data can limit the scope and reliability of long-term dataset analysis—resulting in a cascading effect for private and public partners that rely on this information to make regulatory and financial decisions. Moreover, the United States Geological Survey has a national mission that extends beyond the boundaries of the Nation's public lands to positively impact the lives of all Americans. For these reasons, the USGS Coalition requests that Congress provide \$1.2 billion for USGS in fiscal year 2020.

The USGS Coalition appreciates the subcommittee's past leadership in strengthening the United States Geological Survey. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

[This statement was submitted by Elizabeth Duffy, Chair.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION

Thank you for the opportunity to present our fiscal year 2020 funding requests. The WaterReuse Association (WRA) is a not-for-profit trade association for water utilities, businesses, industrial and commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations, and research entities that engage in and on water reuse. WRA and its State and regional sections represent more than 200 water utilities serving over 60 million customers, and over 300 businesses and organizations across the country. WRA's mission is to engage its members in a movement for safe and sustainable water supplies, to promote acceptance and support of recycled water, and to advocate for policies and funding that increase water reuse. As you begin the fiscal year 2020 appropriations cycle, we submit the following requests for your consideration:

AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (AWIA) OF 2018 PROVISIONS

Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

We request following amounts for fiscal year 2020 for three programs newly authorized in AWIA:

- \$4 million for SEC. 2005—Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program;
- \$10 million for SEC. 2007—Innovative Water Technology Grant Program
- \$25 million for SEC. 2013—Community Water System Risk and Resilience Program
- \$225 million for SEC. 4106—Sewer Overflow Control Grants

These four programs were created in the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. fiscal year 2020 will be the first opportunity to provide a Federal investment under the new authorizations. These programs will provide tools and resources to support innovation in addressing unique local challenges in water supply and water quality, including practices involving the use of recycled wastewater effluent, captured stormwater, and other alternative water sources in all States.

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

The successful Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program is the primary source of Federal financing assistance for clean water infrastructure. The CWSRF is an important tool used across all 50 States and in communities of all sizes to help communities make investments more affordably. Our Nation's water infrastructure faces significant infrastructure investment challenges with utilities challenged to maintain and upgrade aging infrastructure, comply with Federal obligations, protect public health and serve as environmental stewards in their community—all while maintaining affordable rates for critical services. A significant increase in funding for the CWSRF would provide tools and resources to help meet these growing needs. We therefore request a doubling of funding for the CWSRF to \$3.388 billion in fiscal year 2020.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM

Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Account: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program accelerates investment in our Nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. EPA estimates that a \$50 million Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) appropriation can be leveraged into \$5 billion in low-interest Federal loans and \$10 billion in new water infrastructure projects. A small increase in appropriated dollars for this program can go a very long way toward advancing water reuse and recycling across the country. Already, WIFIA has made major investments in innovative water recycling projects, and we expect to see this trend continue into the future. We therefore request \$70 million in fiscal year 2020 for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program.

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

Following the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, Congress demonstrated its commitment to safe drinking water and economic growth by providing more than \$19 billion to the Drinking Water SRF program, resulting in \$35.4 billion in assistance to water systems that have supported roughly 13,800 drinking water improvement projects nationwide, and been an almost 2:1 return on investment for American taxpayers. Despite the large investment, the need for drinking water infrastructure improvements far exceeds available dollars. An increase in fiscal year 2020 would help address that need. We therefore request \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2020 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES WATER RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Account: Science & Technology

The water sector in the United States is vital for supporting healthy families and thriving communities. Today, the water sector is facing unprecedented challenges, including extreme drought, catastrophic flooding, failing infrastructure, emerging contaminants, and dramatic changes in population. Water research will play a critical role in developing cost-effective solutions to these challenges to ensure thriving, resilient communities, create jobs, and support healthy families. In the past 2 years, Congress has appropriated between \$600–\$700 million for EPA research, but less than 15 percent of EPA's Science and Technology Account funding is dedicated to water related research. Less than 1 percent of these funds supports applied research for water utilities. We therefore request an increase in funding to \$20 million for the National Priorities Water Research grant program in order to better reflect the urgent research needs of the water sector.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the subcommittee, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on the appropriations and activities of the Bureau of

Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). WGA is an independent organization representing the Governors of 19 western States and 3 U.S. territories in the Pacific. The Association is an instrument of the Governors for bipartisan policy development, information-sharing and collective action on issues of critical importance to the western United States.

The agencies within the subcommittee's jurisdiction wield significant influence over vast areas of the American West. Ninety-four percent of all Federal lands are located in the western States, and the Federal Government owns over 46 percent of the land within active WGA States. The work of this subcommittee is of vital importance to Western Governors, as it establishes how these lands are managed and how Federal agencies interact with other levels of government and the public.

There is a tension between State and Federal Government, one that is embedded in the fabric of our Constitution. These sovereign governments must have a close and productive working relationship to increase efficiencies and maximize returns on taxpayer investments. The promotion of a greater partnership between States and the Federal Government is central to the mission of WGA and is reflected in WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship, which I commend to your attention.

In last year's House Committee report accompanying the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill (H. Rpt. 115-765), the Federal agencies funded by the Interior bill were directed to provide appropriate feedback on Tribal input received by agencies through meaningful consultation in their decisionmaking processes. Similar direction to Federal agencies for consultation with States, which is required pursuant to Executive Order 13132, would improve the co-sovereign relationship between States and the Federal Government. The Governors have also urged the Department of the Interior (DOI) to engage in meaningful, substantive consultation with States on departmental reorganization and appreciate the direction to DOI regarding the necessity of this consultation. Reorganization offers an excellent opportunity to improve State and Federal consultation, coordination, and communication.

The promotion of greater partnership between States and the Federal Government is central to the mission of WGA and a key theme of several WGA projects, including the Species Conservation and Endangered Species Act Initiative, the National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative, and the current Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative. Responsible land management can only occur when Federal, State and local stakeholders work collaboratively to improve the health and resilience of our lands. Likewise, fish and wildlife conservation is only possible through the cooperative efforts of State and Federal officials across multiple disciplines.

Western Governors believe that States should be full partners in the implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and have the opportunity to participate in listing decisions, critical habitat designations, recovery planning and delisting decisions. The Act is premised on a strong State-Federal partnership. Section 6(a) of the ESA States that: "In carrying out the program authorized by the Act, the Secretary shall cooperate to the maximum extent practicable with the States." WGA submits that such cooperation should involve meaningful opportunities for States to comment, participate, or undertake proactive measures before the Federal Government takes action under the ESA.

States possess primary authority to manage most fish and wildlife within their borders, and they are the principal recipients of economic benefits associated with healthy species and ecosystems. At the same time, species listings and their associated prohibitions and consultations can affect the efforts of western States to promote economic development, accommodate population growth, and maintain and expand infrastructure. Consequently, States should have the right to intervene in judicial and administrative proceedings regarding the ESA. Western Governors urge the subcommittee to support the legal standing of States to participate in administrative and judicial actions involving ESA that, by their nature, implicate State authority and resources.

For the past several years, the subcommittee has adopted report language directing Federal land managers to use State fish and wildlife data and analyses as principal sources to inform land use, land planning and related natural resource decisions. Western Governors are deeply appreciative of your commitment to promote a positive relationship between the States and the Federal Government in the use of wildlife data while respecting the limitations of State data privacy laws. Federal managers need data-driven science, mapping and analyses to effectively manage wildlife species and habitat, and in many cases States generate the best available wildlife science. Western Governors encourage continued coordination between Fed-

eral and State agencies on wildlife data collection to avoid spending scarce resources on duplicative data collection efforts.

WGA recommends the enactment and full funding of a permanent and stable funding mechanism for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program administered by DOI. PILT funding does not represent a gift to local jurisdictions; rather it provides important compensation for the disproportionate acreage of non-taxable Federal lands in the West. Similarly, payments under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) compensate communities whose timber industries have been negatively impacted by actions and acquisitions of the Federal Government. Western Governors request that you appropriate full funding for both PILT and SRS payments in fiscal year 2020.

Data for water management and drought response planning is critical to western States. Western Governors request adequate funding levels for the Cooperative Water Program and National Streamflow Information Program, both administered by the U.S. Geological Survey. This data is integral to the water supply management decisions of States, utilities, reservoir operators and farmers. They are also used for flood forecasts and are, accordingly, essential for risk assessment and water management. These programs are important elements of a robust water data management framework in western States and provide needed support for drought mitigation efforts throughout the West.

Infrastructure management is another crucial element of drought response. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) provide necessary support for communities to maintain and enhance their water infrastructure. Western Governors' Policy Resolution 2018-12, Water Quality in the West, encourages adequate funding for SRFs.

Western Governors continue to be concerned about the number of wild horses and burros on BLM lands. This number is presently estimated to be more than triple the current Appropriate Management Level (AML). Overpopulation can degrade rangeland, negatively affecting wildlife and domestic livestock, as well as the habitat of threatened and endangered species. WGA supports a process to establish, monitor and adjust AMLs for wild horses and burros that is transparent to stakeholders, supported by scientific information (including State data), and amenable to adaptation with new information and environmental and social change.

WGA remains concerned about the spread of invasive mussels in the West and have chosen to highlight this issue through the Western Governors' Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative. Of particular concern are invasive quagga and zebra mussels, which continue to be a major threat to western water resources. To combat this threat, Western Governors request that the BLM, FWS, and NPS be provided with the resources and statutory authority required to implement mandatory inspection of all high-risk watercraft and decontamination of watercraft infested with quagga and zebra mussels leaving waterbodies under their jurisdiction.

Western Governors applaud NPS for its efforts to preserve iconic landscapes, habitats and cultural resources. WGA is concerned, however, that the significant maintenance backlog across all National Parks will impede responsible natural and cultural resources management. WGA encourages adequate funding to support ongoing NPS operations and address critical infrastructure needs.

Western Governors had previously expressed concern regarding the development of the 2015 Clean Water Rule by the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE), as States were not adequately consulted by the agencies during the rule-making process. EPA and USACE have promulgated new language to clarify the jurisdictional boundaries of the Clean Water Act and have taken positive steps to engage WGA and individual States with respect to this issue. WGA looks forward to working with the agencies to further develop and implement a new rule that takes into account the viewpoints of Western Governors and adequately protects States' primary authority over the management and allocation of water resources.

States have exclusive authority over the allocation and administration of rights to groundwater located within their borders and are primarily responsible for protecting, managing, and otherwise controlling the resource. The regulatory reach of the Federal Government was not intended to, and should not, be applied to the management and control of groundwater resources. WGA encourages Congress to include express and unambiguous language protecting States' authority over groundwater resources in any water-related legislation, as well as clear direction to administrative agencies to respect such authority. WGA appreciates the language included by the subcommittee in prior Appropriations Acts addressing existing statutory authorities for groundwater protection. Federal agencies should work through existing State authorities to address their groundwater-related needs and concerns. Such collaboration will help ensure that Federal efforts involving groundwater recognize and respect State primacy and comply with all statutory authorities.

States also possess delegated authority from EPA to manage air quality within their borders. Congress and EPA should recognize State authority under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and accord States sufficient flexibility to create air quality and emissions programs tailored to individual State needs, industries, and economies. State CAA programs require financial support from Congress, yet funding has declined since the CAA's enactment. In addition, given the unique character of the West and the region's attainment challenges, funding should be appropriated for EPA to assist western States in research on background, interstate and transported ozone. More frequent and intense wildfires are steadily reducing the West's gains in air quality improvement. Smoke from wildfires causes exceedances under National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and ozone, negatively affecting public health, safety and transportation. Prescribed fire can reduce these effects but is currently underused in many areas.

Western States depend on a safe, reliable and resilient network of infrastructure to move goods, people, energy, and agricultural products to meet growing demands across our Nation and world. Because a significant portion of the West is federally-owned, Federal processes impact the region's infrastructure. Congress should clarify that State, local and Tribal governments, as well as their political subdivisions, have unique and critical duties to serve their citizens and are not stakeholders or members of the public for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. In addition, existing State environmental review processes can supplement and inform Federal NEPA reviews; Federal agencies should work directly with States to obtain and use up-to-date State data and analyses as critical sources of information in the NEPA process.

Western Governors and Federal land management agencies deal with a complex web of interrelated natural resource issues. It is an enormous challenge to judiciously balance competing needs in this environment, and Western Governors appreciate the difficulty of the decisions this subcommittee must make. The foregoing recommendations are offered in a spirit of cooperation and respect, and WGA is prepared to assist you in discharging these critical and challenging responsibilities.

[This statement was submitted by James D. Ogsbury, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Wildlife Conservation Society would like to thank Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall for providing this opportunity to offer testimony in support of funding in the fiscal year 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF), Office of International Affairs (IA), Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), and Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program (CLCP) accounts at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the International Forestry program at the U.S. Forest Service (FS-IP).

WCS was founded with the help of Theodore Roosevelt in 1895 with the mission of saving wildlife and wild places worldwide. Today, WCS manages the largest network of urban wildlife parks in the United States, led by our flagship, the Bronx Zoo. Globally, our goal is to conserve the world's largest wild places, focusing on 16 priority regions that are home to more than 50 percent of the world's biodiversity. We work in almost 60 countries and manage more than 200 million acres of protected areas around the world.

The American conservation tradition is based on promoting sustainable use of our natural resources in order to preserve the world's species and environment for future generations. In recognition of the current fiscal constraints, it is important to note that effective natural resources management and conservation has indirect but significant economic benefits, including contributing to local economies through tourism and other means. Internationally, by supporting conservation, the U.S. is increasing the capacity of other nations to respond to extreme weather, drought, and wildfires, thus strengthening governance in these developing nations, which improves U.S. national security. That is why WCS and partners have launched the *Natural Security* Campaign (www.naturalsecurity.us) to demonstrate that investments in international conservation can help prevent global conflicts, reduce international crime, guard against natural disaster, and promote legal and fair trade.

FWS—Multinational Species Conservation Fund—\$15 Million: Global priority species, such as tigers, rhinos, African and Asian elephants, great apes, and marine and freshwater turtles and tortoises, face constant danger from poaching, habitat loss, and other serious concerns. MSCF programs have helped to sustain wildlife populations by controlling poaching, reducing human-wildlife conflict, and protecting essential habitat—all while promoting U.S. economic and security interests in far reaching parts of the world. These programs are highly efficient, granting them an

outsized impact because they consistently leverage two to four times as much in matching funds from organizations like WCS, foreign governments, local NGOs, and private foundations.

WCS has had great success on projects using funds from the MSCF. One Great Ape award to WCS in fiscal year 2017 is supporting a 5-year project to secure the Cross River gorilla population in Nigeria and Cameroon. WCS is protecting the intact, old growth forest that is home to the less than 300 gorillas that remain and a number of forest dependent communities by establishing an effective network of core protected areas and corridors linking habitat between the two countries despite pressures from Chinese developers and the provincial government's interest in building a "Super Highway" through this critical habitat.

WCS is grateful that the Committee appropriated \$11.6 million for the program in fiscal year 2019, an increase of \$500,000 from the previous year and the first increase of any kind for the program in 3 years. Regrettably, the President's budget proposes to roll back this gain by cutting funding for the MSCF by more than 40 percent. Poaching and wildlife trafficking remain a serious threat to all of the species covered by the Species funds. The illegal killing of rhinos for horns and African elephants for ivory continues, and there is growing concern that endangered Asian elephants are being poached for their skin, which is used in jewelry and for specious medicinal purposes in rural areas in Southeast Asia. It is also important to mention that with the passage of the Chairman's lands bill, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, the MSCF has been expanded to include tortoises and freshwater turtles. About 60 percent of all of the 330 modern species of tortoises and freshwater turtles are listed as threatened, endangered, or are already extinct in the wild according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Ten species are known to have wild populations of less than 100 individuals. The statutory language in the Dingell Act ensures that no cuts would occur to grants to marine turtle projects, meaning that additional funding is necessary to ensure that grant funding is available for the newly added species. WCS hopes that the subcommittee will consider these points and allocate \$15 million for the MSCF to match the amount proposed in the House draft bill.

FWS—International Affairs—\$18 Million: The FWS IA program supports efforts to conserve our planet's rich wildlife diversity by protecting habitat and species, combating illegal wildlife trade, and building capacity for landscape-level wildlife conservation. The program provides oversight of domestic laws and international treaties that promote the long-term conservation of plant and animal species by ensuring that international trade and other activities do not threaten their survival in the wild. Within IA, the FWS Regional Programs for Africa, Eurasia, and the Western Hemisphere seek to address grassroots wildlife conservation problems from a broad, landscape perspective, building regional expertise and capacity while strengthening local institutions.

The IA program works hand-in-glove with the MSCF, supporting the conservation of species that are not specifically addressed by the species funds and providing support for conservation of entire habitats, even in cases where they happen to cross political boundaries. Big cats like jaguars and snow leopards are examples of why this program is important. These species need large territories to provide the prey they need to survive and thrive, and protection from poachers and others that infringe upon protected areas to conduct illegal activities. The IA program supports WCS projects that are striving to help these species through scientific study, habitat conservation, and working with local communities to conserve these animals.

The final fiscal year 2019 bill contained level funding for the International Affairs program. WCS asks that the subcommittee increase funding for the program to \$18 million so that this program can better support efforts to conserve landscapes and vulnerable species.

FWS—Office of Law Enforcement—\$85 Million: The U.S. remains one of the world's largest markets for wildlife and wildlife products, both legal and illegal. A small group of dedicated officers at OLE are tasked with protecting fish, wildlife, and plant resources by investigating wildlife crimes—including commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and industrial hazards—and monitoring international trade to intercept illegal wildlife and timber products. As the U.S. developed and implemented a comprehensive strategy to combat the growing crisis of wildlife trafficking over the last several years, many of the new responsibilities placed on FWS are enforced by OLE, and WCS supports increasing funding for the agency to \$85 million. Additional funding for the program will support its efforts to maximize the scope and effectiveness of FWS' response to the international wildlife trafficking crisis. It will ensure OLE has an adequate number of law enforcement agents deployed to enforce laws against wildlife trafficking in the U.S. effectively and allow the agency to continue to support coordinated enforcement actions against wildlife trafficking

overseas through the deployment of 11 FWS attachés in U.S. embassies in countries where substantial trafficking in wildlife occurs. Additional funding will allow at least 2 additional personnel to be stationed in embassies and missions that serve as key transit points for illegal wildlife and enable stronger enforcement against illegal timber and wildlife products entering the United States.

FWS—Cooperative Landscape Conservation—\$13 Million: Many of the domestic conservation programs in this bill provide funding to States to implement their conservation goals. But wildlife does not recognize political boundaries, and scarce conservation dollars can best be spent when effective planning and coordination takes place across entire ecosystems. The CLCP funds a network of 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in the U.S. and Canada, which use a collaborative approach between Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners to identify landscape scale conservation solutions and work collaboratively to meet unfilled conservation needs, develop decision support tools, share data and knowledge, and facilitate and foster conservation partnerships. The landscape-based conservation strategy is particularly valuable in large States like Alaska, which participates in 4 LCCs, and New Mexico, which works with 3, because of the significant variations in the ecosystems in different parts of the States. The final fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill cut funding for this program by approximately \$500,000. WCS encourages the Committee to return funding to the fiscal year 2018 level of \$13 million.

WCS is working to compliment the efforts of the CLCP through our Climate Adaptation Fund. Established by a generous grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Climate Adaptation Fund supports ground breaking, science-based projects, using traditional and new conservation tools applied in strategic ways to help wildlife and ecosystems adapt to a range of climate impacts in the United States.

USFS—International Forestry—\$10 Million: The U.S. economy has lost approximately \$1 billion per year and over 200,000 jobs due to illegal logging, which is responsible for 15–30 percent of all timber by volume. FS-IP works to level the playing field by reducing illegal logging and improving the sustainability and legality of timber management overseas, translating to less underpriced timber undercutting U.S. producers. Through partnerships with USAID and the Department of State, FS-IP helps to improve the resource management in countries of strategic importance to U.S. economic and national security. WCS supports an appropriation of \$10 million for fiscal year 2020, a small but important increase in funding for this program.

With technical and financial support from FS-IP, WCS has been working to conserve a biologically rich temperate forest zone called the Primorye in the Russian Far East for over a decade, focusing on the Amur tiger and Far Eastern leopard and their habitat, species with approximately 400 and 40 individuals remaining in the wild, respectively. Human encroachment, illegal logging, and widespread use of agricultural burning fracture and threaten the habitat of these endangered animals and increase human wildlife conflicts. Since the Amur tiger and Far Eastern leopard are dependent on large tracts of intact, functional forest ecosystems, WCS has been focusing on these two species as a means to address larger biodiversity conservation and scientific-technological capacity building goals throughout the region.

Building on its strong international partnerships, the FS-IP also supports collaborative research aimed to control and prevent invasive species that significantly threaten the health of U.S. forests and inflict massive economic costs. In the forest products industry alone, approximately \$4.2 billion is lost each year to invasive insect pests and pathogens. In one project, FS-IP is working with partners in Europe to prevent the spread of the European wood wasp, which has already been documented in pine forests in New York and now threatens to spread into the Southeast U.S., where drier and warmer temperatures could allow the species to devastate pines in the region.

In conclusion, WCS believes that the conservation of public lands is an American tradition. As far back as 1909, Theodore Roosevelt recognized that the management of our natural resources requires coordination between all nations. Continued investment in conservation will reaffirm our global position as a conservation leader, while improving our national security and building capacity and good governance in developing countries.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Wildlife Society (TWS) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony concerning the fiscal year 2020 budgets for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. For-

est Service (USFS). Founded in 1937, TWS represents approximately 15,000 wildlife professions with a mission to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. Appropriations for the following programs within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will affect the current and future status of wildlife and wildlife professionals in North America. To enable the appropriate use of science within these programs and beyond, TWS respectfully requests the following programmatic funding in fiscal year 2020.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 INTERIOR APPROPRIATION REQUESTS—THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Agency	Program	Fiscal Year 2019 Enacted	Fiscal Year 2020 TWS
USGS	Ecosystems Mission Area	156.9 M	174 M
	Cooperative Research Units	18.4 M	25 M
FWS	State & Tribal Wildlife Grants	64.6 M	90 M
	National Wildlife Refuge System	488.3 M	586 M
	Ecological Services	251.8 M	257 M
	NAWCA	42 M	44 M
	NMBCA	3.9 M	6.5 M
	Partners for Fish and Wildlife	51.6 M	54.4 M
	Migratory Bird Management	46.4 M	50 M
BLM	Wildlife & Aquatic Management	126 M	128 M
	Wild Horse & Burro Management	80.5 M	¹ 80.5 M
USFS	Research & Development	300 M	311 M

¹ BLM Wild Horse & Burro Management funding request accompanies request to remove an associated policy rider

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Wildlife Society supports the critical and unique mission of USGS to provide objective scientific research and data collection on the complex environmental and associated societal issues facing our Nation. TWS specifically requests at least \$174 million for the Ecosystems Mission Area, which contains programmatic resources for fisheries, wildlife, invasive species, and the Cooperative Research Units (CRU).

Within the Ecosystems Mission Area, TWS supports at least \$25 million for the CRU program. This program fosters Federal, State, NGO, and academic partnerships to provide actionable science tailored to the needs of natural resource managers on the front lines. The support of many State agencies, universities, and NGOs has allowed the program to leverage more than three dollars in outside funds for every Federal dollar invested. By housing USGS scientists in Land Grant universities, this program also develops the next generation of wildlife professionals and provides them with an understanding of actionable science responsive to stakeholder needs. An increase of funding to \$25 million would allow the CRUs to fill a record 38 CRU scientist vacancies (32 percent). If inflation-adjusted funding is once again neglected by Congress, this problem may continue to increase in scope. The increase of \$1 million in the final fiscal year 2019 language failed to provide the funds needed to make a sizable impact in filling these vacancies.

Within the Land Resources Mission Area, the Climate Adaptation Science Centers program responds to regional wildlife, ecosystems, and community-based stakeholder needs in the face of a changing climate. TWS encourages Congress to retain this program within the Land Resources Mission Area, where its existing framework has effectively leveraged millions in funding from non-Federal partners to provide stakeholders with a better understanding of how resources will react and respond to climate change.

The Wildlife Society is encouraged by discussions surrounding the public lands maintenance backlog by the administration and Congress. However, TWS is concerned that USGS, which provides added scientific capacity for Federal public lands agencies, is not being considered within these conversations. With a maintenance backlog of over \$400 million, the facilities needs of USGS have to be addressed for them to remain responsive to Federal public lands agencies and partners. TWS encourages inclusion of USGS in funding conversations on the maintenance backlog.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program (STWG) is the Nation's only program that encourages developing and implementing State Wildlife Action Plans, thereby directly supporting States in preventing wildlife from being listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Collectively, STWG funds support strong partnerships among Federal, State, Tribal, private, and nonprofit entities that enable wildlife professionals to implement on-the-ground conservation activities that benefit over 12,000 at-risk species. In fiscal year 2010, appropriations were at \$90 million for the program—allowing States to complete more of the projects deemed necessary for monitoring and recovery of at-risk species. Subsequent budget reductions in STWG, however, have not allowed this highly successful program to reach its full potential. The Wildlife Society requests Congress once again reach prior funding levels for this highly effective program by providing at least \$90 million in fiscal year 2020. TWS also requests the competitive funding portion be open to all States and Tribes working on at-risk species recovery, and not be funded exclusively for implementing Interior Secretarial Order 3362.

The Wildlife Society requests at least \$586 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System's (NWRS) operations and maintenance accounts in fiscal year 2020. The NWRS has long been an economic driver, generating approximately \$4.87 in economic activity for every \$1 appropriated by Congress. However, the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, to which TWS is a member, estimates NWRS needs at least \$900 million in annual operations and maintenance funding to properly administer its 567 units, 38 wetland management districts, and 5 marine national monuments spanning over 850 million acres of land and water. Without adequate funding, ecosystems are not restored; invasive species are left unchecked; infrastructure for multiple use opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking are not realized; and illegal activities such as poaching are not addressed.

Through the Ecological Services Program (ESP), the USFWS works with diverse public and private partners to help identify species facing extinction and reduce threats to their populations so that the requirement of Federal protection can be removed. Wildlife professionals in FWS are working on new strategies to increase efficacy of ESP and reduce regulatory burdens on private partners. To efficaciously move species through all components of the ESA listing and delisting process, TWS requests at least \$23 million for Listing, \$108 million for Planning and Consultation, \$35 million for Conservation and Restoration, and \$96 million for Recovery.

Further promoting FWS' partnership with private landowners is the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. This program allows voluntary habitat restoration goals, aligned with identified strategic priorities, on private lands to be achieved through cost-efficient financial and technical assistance. For the role this program plays in improving private lands wildlife stewardship while working to preempt ESA listings, TWS supports the administration's request of \$54.4 million for PFW in fiscal year 2020.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) is a non-regulatory, incentive-based program that has demonstrated success in maintaining and restoring wetlands, waterfowl, and other migratory bird populations by conserving more than 33.4 million acres since 1989. This program has remained chronically underfunded despite its demonstrated effectiveness. TWS greatly appreciates the \$2 million increase in fiscal year 2019 and asks that Congress provide a similar increase in fiscal year 2020 with an appropriation of \$44 million.

Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) has provided more than \$66 million in grants to support 570 projects in 36 countries that enable wildlife professionals to conserve approximately 400 migratory bird species on 4.5 million acres in the U.S., Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Moreover, NMBCA has achieved a partner match ratio of nearly 4:1 despite requiring only a 3:1 match. The needs of U.S. migratory bird species and conservation efforts to keep these species common extends to landscapes far beyond U.S. borders. As a result, TWS recommends Congress increase funding to at least \$6.5 million in fiscal year 2020 to achieve greater proactive conservation results under the program.

The Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (MBJV), part of FWS' Migratory Bird Management program, are locally-directed partnerships that develop and implement science-based habitat conservation strategies for all species of birds across North America. These partnerships have leveraged Federal funds at 31:1 to enhance and conserve over 27 million acres of avian habitat. TWS supports \$50 million for Migratory Bird Management, including \$19.9 million for enhancing and promoting MBJV.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Wildlife and Aquatic Management program maintains and restores fish, wildlife, and their habitat across a large portion of America's western landscapes. This includes projects to balance effects of multiple public land uses, such as energy development and livestock grazing, with needs of native species. With the continued expansion of energy development on BLM lands—and the associated mitigation challenges—TWS recommends Congress support the Wildlife and Aquatic Management program with at least \$128 million in fiscal year 2020.

The Wildlife Society would also like to stress the importance of the threatened and endangered species work of the BLM, and urges Congress to maintain this work as a separately funded line item. Approximately 480 ESA listed species and at least 31 species that are candidates for ESA listing occur on BLM-managed lands. TWS encourages Congress to increase overall funding for Threatened and Endangered Species Management and reject efforts by the administration to absorb this program into other line items.

The Wildlife Society recognizes free-ranging horses and burros in the U.S. as ecologically invasive, feral species. Free-ranging horse and burro populations on the range reached >82,000 individuals in March 2018, exceeding BLM's estimated threshold for ecological sustainability by over 50,000 animals. To achieve ecologically sustainable levels of horses and burros on BLM rangelands without substantial budget increases, the current policy rider limiting sale and/or destruction of unwanted or unadoptable wild horses and burros must be removed from the Interior Appropriations bill. Until Congress enables BLM to responsibly manage free-ranging horses and burros by removing this text from the appropriations bill, Federal funds will continue to be wasted warehousing over 50,000 animals, rather than spent on productive rangeland management activities. Given the current management direction Congress has provided to the BLM, TWS recommends flat funding at \$80.5 million in fiscal year 2020. TWS recognizes that removal of this appropriations rider will ultimately allow this program's budget to be reduced as requested by the administration.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The Wildlife Society thanks congressional conferees for their interest in the research priorities of USFS Research and Development (R&D). TWS encourages an acknowledgement of wildlife science and management within R&D priorities and hopes the administration will better reflect this work in future budget requests. Improving the future health and sustainability of the Nation's forests and grasslands through collaboration with States and other partners requires a strong investment in R&D. TWS encourages Congress to increase funding for all Forest Service R&D to a minimum of \$305 million in fiscal year 2020, including at least \$227 million directed to Forest and Rangeland Research program areas exclusive of Forest Inventory and Analysis.

[This statement was submitted by Darren Miller, President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (hereinafter "YTT" or "Tribe") makes the following requests for the fiscal year 2020 Indian Health Service (IHS) and Indian Affairs appropriations:

- Continue funding for the IHS Joint Venture Program and ensure that funds for staffing packages for completed programs are timely made available.
- Appropriate funds to fully cover Section 105(l) leases for healthcare facilities.
- Put in place a plan to achieve full funding for the IHS, including increases for the Indian Health Care Improvement fund and the Purchased/Referred Care program.
- Continue support for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians via mandatory appropriations and a multi-year authorization.
- Continue to fully fund Contract Support Costs.
- Allow BIE to provide education funding in Alaska.
- Ensure BIA has adequate funds for tribal courts and public safety programs.
- Remove 'Trust Land Restrictions' for Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy grant opportunities.
- Removal of legislative language that has been put in place in Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts

since fiscal year 2005, which prevents Tribes in Alaska to be direct recipients to NAHASDA funding.

The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on the fiscal year 2020 appropriations for several important programs. The Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located on the eastern shores of the Gulf of Alaska in the City and Borough of Yakutat, Alaska. We are in a very remote area 225 miles northwest of Juneau and 220 miles southeast of Cordova, Alaska, and can be accessed only by boat or air travel. Because of our geographic isolation, it is absolutely critical that we are able to provide high quality health services in Yakutat. We currently operate the Yakutat Community Health Center (YCHC), at which we provide a substantial and increasing number of community healthcare, counseling and prevention services.

The YCHC is funded in part through a community health center grant with the Health Resources and Services Administration, and we are a co-signer to the Alaska Tribal Health Compact under which we receive funding from the IHS under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) self-governance program. Other funding comes to us through the State of Alaska and third-party collections such as Medicaid and private health insurance. Also, we have for many years received funding from the Universal Service Administration Company to support our information technology needs to provide health services and maintain critical connectivity, including our tele-health services and coordination with Tribal health programs throughout Alaska. The City and Borough of Yakutat operates a volunteer Emergency Medical Services squad, but the YCHC is the only healthcare provider in the community. The Yakutat Borough is in a Medically Underserved Area and is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area for medical, dental and mental health.

Fund the IHS Joint Venture Program.—As you know, YTT is currently working toward building a new healthcare facility using its own Tribal funds. We really appreciate Chairman Murkowski's exchange with the Indian Health Service at your May 1, 2019, hearing regarding the importance of determining the proper funding level for a staffing package for our facility.

Our facility is under the IHS Joint Venture Construction Program (JVCP), authorized by Section 818(e) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The program involves a competitive pool of Tribes and Tribal organizations who agree to construct, acquire or renovate a Tribal healthcare facility while IHS commits to funding the initial equipment and a staffing package for the operation and maintenance of the new facility. We were selected for the program among a competitive pool of applicants, and IHS has not only committed to staffing the new facility, but also to providing equipment funding. The IHS will thus be responsible under the program for providing recurring funding for staffing on completion of the construction project.

The new 20,000 square foot facility will be built on land owned by the Tribe in Yakutat. The facility will allow the Tribe to provide improved and increased health service delivery in our remote area, and we intend to expand our primary care services and dental care. We will also have space available for visiting specialty providers to use, as well as space for our health aides, behavioral healthcare providers, preventive care and our administrative staff.

The Tribe has secured multi-tiered financing through a combination of a USDA direct loan and guaranty loan. We have additionally leveraged in private financing to serve as interim construction finance and to fund the USDA guaranty loan. We have the process identified to control construction costs, and are looking to begin construction this building season in Yakutat.

The Tribe asks the subcommittees to support the continued funding for the IHS JVCP, and in particular asks that staffing funds be appropriated and made available to the IHS on a timely basis, so the Tribe can afford to open and staff the new facility on completion of construction without delay. Tribes like YTT have to commit far in advance to the construction costs and rely heavily on the funding for staffing to be available to them as quickly as possible on completion of the facility. Otherwise, it would be impossible for YTT to plan for and operate the new healthcare facility once it is complete. We need the security of knowing that the funding for staffing will be made available to us on a timely basis, so that we can advertise for and select new healthcare professionals and other staff needed for the expanded services, and to allow them time to relocate to Yakutat, Alaska.

Fund Section 105(l) Health Facility Leases.—In 2018, YTT submitted requests for two Section 105(l) leases with the IHS. We believe that being able to exercise that authority under the ISDEAA is imperative to our and other Tribe's ability to carry out health programs in a safe and effective environment. Tribes and Tribal organizations are increasingly relying on Section 105(l) leases to address chronically un-

derfunded facilities operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. This is not just an issue in Alaska, as there are Tribes outside of Alaska who also desperately need funding for their healthcare facilities. We greatly appreciate your recognition of the *Maniilaq v. Burwell* decision as evidenced by the \$36 million fiscal year 2019 appropriation for clinic leases.

However, we are concerned that the administration will again ask that Congress amend the ISDEAA so that the IHS does not have to fully fund such leases. In *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell*, 170 F. Supp. 3d 243 (D.D.C. 2016), the court confirmed Section 105(l) of the ISDEAA requires full compensation for leases of tribal facilities used to carry out ISDEAA agreements. Funding such leases should not be placed wholly in IHS's discretion as it proposes. And we ask that the Congress again reject the proposal.

Support Funding for the Indian Health Service IHCIF and PRC.—YTT is one of the most disparately funded Tribes within the Indian Health Service. Our per capita IHS base funding for basic medical care services is under \$700 per active user; if you add medical services provided through our regional hospital, this amount is estimated at \$1,500, well below the national 2017 spending for all other Americans of \$9,207 per person and the IHS average of \$3,332 per active user for medical care. We strongly support full funding for the IHS as requested within the National Tribal Budget Formulation fiscal year 2020 request. Until that full funding is realized, we support continuing funding for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund, which is intended to help reduce these IHS funding disparities within Indian Country for the neediest Tribes. It is unrealistic to expect our Tribe to fund our primary care services with a recurring medical services base funding from the IHS of only \$309,000; while we have been successful in supplementing these funds with grant and other resources, unlike our IHS dollars these are not guaranteed to be sustainable from year to year.

We also support increases to the Purchased/Referred Care budget. We are currently negotiating with the Alaska IHS Area Office to receive our share of PRC funding; the estimated amount we likely will receive annually is under \$300,000/year. We are concerned that this amount will not cover our annual costs for medevacs and routine referrals to the nearest Tribal hospital in Anchorage. Increasing the PRC funding will be critical to ensuring that we have funds to cover costs for these emergency and routine transports without bankrupting our budgets which provide resources needed to cover our primary care operating and facilities expenses.

Mandatory Funding For the Special Diabetes Program For Indians (SDPI).—The Tribe very much appreciates that Congress has reauthorized the SDPI through fiscal years 2018 and 2019 at the mandatory funding level of \$150 million each year. The SDPI continues to provide critical funding for diabetes treatment and prevention programs for the Tribe's AI/AN patients. We continue to see significant outcomes in our community in terms of increased access to treatment and prevention services and decreased incidence of new diabetes diagnoses. We strongly recommend that the subcommittees support maintenance of the SDPI as mandatory-funded program and were glad to learn that the administration did not propose in its fiscal year 2020 budget to change the program's funding to a discretionary basis.

Continue Full Funding of Contract Support Costs (CSC).—Again, we extend our sincere gratitude to Congress for fully funding CSC in the past four fiscal years, and for making it an indefinite amount that is in a separate account in the IHS and Bureau of Indian Affairs' budgets. The full funding of CSC has made a significant difference in our ability to successfully carry out our ISDEAA agreements and realize our rights and responsibilities under self-governance.

Support BIE Funding for Education in Alaska.—In the 1980's, Congress passed a rider to an appropriations bill that returned Tribal schools to the State of Alaska. And since then, BIE has not provided funding, other than Johnson O'Malley, to schools in Alaska. Given the State's current budget crisis, we ask Congress to reconsider this limitation and allow Tribes to get these funds.

Support BIA Funding for Tribal Courts and for Public Safety.—The federally-appointed Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission examined various aspects of rural justice services, and found serious deficiencies. With reduced State funding, YTT asks Congress to increase funding to various grant programs, including BIA and DOJ grants, to ensure our communities are safe. This funding can also support Tribal courts. There is a significant disparity when comparing the lower 48 Tribes and Alaskan Tribes. 20–30 percent of lower 48 Tribes' base funding is funneled into Tribal Court sustainability for operations and maintenance. In Alaska there is no parity with the treatment in comparison to lower 48 Tribes. According to the fiscal year 2019 BIA Green Book for Alaskan 638 Tribes, TPA base funding allocated to Tribal Courts and Public Safety is .0001 percent or \$2,364. For Alaskan

Self-Governance Tribes there is a slight improvement but not much with these respective Tribes' base funding at .0027 percent or \$109,610. We ask that Alaskan Tribes be treated with parity.

Support Telecommunications Connectivity Funding From USAC In Rural Areas.—As you know, Internet connectivity is critical to providing healthcare services to our remote villages. Last year you heard from us and other organizations throughout Alaska regarding the cap on Universal Service rural healthcare funds. We appreciate the work that was done to eliminate the cap. We remain concerned about the quality of Internet. We ask Congress to work towards increasing broadband for rural communities.

Request Support for Removal of Legislative Language That Has Been Put in Place in Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Acts (THUDS) Since Fiscal Year 2005, Which Prevents Tribes in Alaska To Be Direct Recipients of NAHASDA Funding.—The current funding distribution for Alaska Tribes to receive their Native American Housing Block Grant funding is from the Alaska Regional Housing Authorities, whose funding comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD). Prior to fiscal year 2005, Tribes in Alaska had the option to either to receive their Native American Housing Block Grant funding from Regional Housing Authorities or directly from HUD. The fiscal year 2005 Appropriation legislative language prohibits federally recognized Tribes in Alaska to be direct recipients. The language is included in fiscal year 2006—H.R. 2577—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, Section 214, “The funds made available for Native Alaskans under the heading “Native American Housing Block Grants” in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native Alaskan housing block grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005.”

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of the concerns and requests made by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

[This statement was submitted by John Buller, Chairman.]
